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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER ARTICLE 18 OF THE CONVENTION

Second Periodic Reports of States parties

Addendum

MONGOLIA

V.87 85120 9470E

The Mongolian People's Republic (MPR) is pursuing a consistent policy aimed at the active involvement of women in the social and political life of the country, at further improvements in their situation, and at the protection of mothers and children.

The Basic Guidelines for the Economic and Social Development of the MPR envisage a system of measures designed to bring about a steady rise in the prosperity and cultural level of the people, including measures to improve the working and living conditions of women and provide better safeguards for the health of mothers and children. The tasks set by the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP) at its eighteenth congress for raising the living standards of the people have been successfully accomplished. The broad range of rights granted to women is being constantly extended as the programmatic objectives for the socio-economic and cultural development of the country continue to be implemented.

The present report is submitted in accordance with article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

In preparing the report, consideration was given to the guiding principles regarding its form and content.

Part I of the Convention

(articles 1-6)

The Constitution of the Mongolian People's Republic asserts the equality of citizens, regardless of sex, racial and national affiliation, religious belief, social origin and status. Article 84 of the Constitution states:

> "Women in the Mongolian People's Republic enjoy rights equal to those of men in all areas of economic, State, cultural and socio-political life. The implementation of these rights is ensured by making available to women conditions equal to those of men in respect of labour, rest and relaxation, social insurance and education; through the State's protection of the interests of mothers and children and State assistance to mothers with numerous children; by granting women paid leave during pregnancy and after childbirth; and by expanding the network of maternity homes, nurseries and kindergartens.
>
> "It is forbidden under the law to impede in any way whatsoever the exercise of equal rights by women."

In accordance with article 99 of the Penal Code of the Mongolian People's Republic, the wilful prevention of a woman from entering an educational establishment or from obtaining employment at a State or public institution, organization or enterprise, and also the prevention of her participation in socio-political or cultural activities or in the affairs of State on a basis of parity with men, if the related actions involve violence or threats, is punishable by the deprivation of liberty for a period of up to three years or by correctional labour for a period of up to one year and six months, or will result in the application of measures of public reprimand.

Matters pertaining to the equality of women are dealt with in such legislative instruments as the Labour Code, the Public Education Law, the Family Code, the Pension Law, the Civil Code, the Penal Code, and others.

The Mongolian People's Republic is a party to the International Convention on the Supresssion of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.

Part II of the Convention

(articles 7-9)

The Constitution establishes the right of the citizens of the MPR to participate freely in the management of the State and society and also in the direction of the economic life of the country, both through their representative elected bodies and directly. This right is guaranteed through the possiblity of voting and being elected to all organs of State authority, of participating in elections, of exercising the function of people's control, etc. (articles 81, 83 and 84 of the Constitution of the MPR).

Women account for 24.9 per cent of the deputies to the Great Khural [Assembly] of the People, and 28.7 per cent of the deputies to the local khurals. A major effort is made in our country to actively involve women in national public life and to promote their advancement to leadership positions. Women currently hold responsible positions in government and in the public sector, where they are to be found at the head of industrial and agricultural enterprises. A woman is a member of the Presidium and Deputy Chairman of the Great Khural of the People, while at the ministerial level 11 women hold the rank of deputy minister.

Women represent 30.2 per cent of the members and candidates for membership of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party. At the Party's nineteenth congress, held in May 1986, three women were elected as members and seven as candidate members of the Central Committee of the MPRP, and three women were elected to the Central Audit Commission.

Women are active participants in the work of the country's organized non-productive societies (public organizations). For example, the deputy chairmen of the Central Council of Mongolian Trade Unions and of the Executive Committee of the Federation of Mongolian Organizations for Peace and Friendship are women.

The Organization of Mongolian Women plays an important role in the effort to promote the active involvement of women in public and political life, in protecting mothers and children, and in raising the younger generation. The Organization participates in the formulation and adoption of decisions pertaining to women and to the safeguarding of maternity and childhood.

Operating under the Great Khural of the People of the MRP and under the aimak (provincial) and municipal executive committees of the khurals of the people's deputies, there are standing commissions on the working and living conditions of women and on the protection of mothers and children. These commissions are extremely active in securing proper and healthy working conditions for women, in upgrading their vocational training and professional qualifications, in improving medical care and ensuring the proper job placement of pregnant women, and in monitoring compliance with the legislation regarding industrial safety and the health of women and children, and also the performance of the children's pre-school institutions and the service sector.

The Committee of Mongolian Women co-operates with the women's organizations of many of the world's countries, actively participating in international conferences, congresses and meetings convened to discuss the issues of peace, security, disarmament, equal rights for women, and the struggle against colonialism, racism and apartheid. Our country has also been the scene of various international events connected with the participation of women in public life and in the struggle for peace and security.

Part III of the Convention

(articles 10-14)

The Constitution of the Mongolian People's Republic guarantees citizens the right to education. This right is ensured through the following measures: general partial secondary education (to be followed by the introduction of the necessary conditions for the transition to full secondary education); the extensive development of technical-vocational, secondary-specialized and higher education; improvements in the system for upgrading professional qualifications; the expansion of the network of educational institutions; instruction in the student's mother tongue and the fact that such instruction is free of charge at educational establishments of all types; and the availability of State scholarships and other forms of material assistance and allowances for students (article 3 of the Public Education Law of the MPR).

There is joint (coeducational) instruction for young men and women at educational establishments of all levels. Today, 27 of every 100 women are enrolled at an educational establishment of some kind. Women account for 57.6 per cent of the students at higher educational establishments, 63.7 per cent of those at secondary specialized colleges, 51 per cent of those at vocational training institutions, and 50.8 per cent of the students at secondary general educational schools. A total of 37.1 per cent of the country's scientific workers are women.

During the period 1981-1985, 48,000 specialists were trained at the higher and secondary specialized institutions of learning, and 54,000 skilled workers at the vocational training schools. The majority of young people of up to 30 years of age have had more than eight years of education.

In accordance with the Constitution of the MPR, women enjoy the same right to work as men. This right is ensured in practice through the fact that women have the opportunity of applying their knowledge and labour in any branch of the economy and in any cultural pursuit (article 77).

Mongolian women can be found working in all branches of the national economy. They account for 46.6 per cent of the persons employed in the area of material production and 57.2 per cent of the work-force in the non-productive sector. Currently, 51.7 per cent of all industrial workers, 38 per cent of construction workers, 50 per cent of communication workers, and 63.7 per cent of the persons employed in the financial and credit sector are women.

Women represent 60 per cent of all persons who make their living in the areas of culture, education and art, 76 per cent of those employed in public health, 37.1 per cent of the country's scientific workers, and 35.9 per cent of its jurists.

Not only does the legislation provide for the right to work, with the woman free to select her profession or occupation, but it supplements this right through additional guarantees. All enterprises, institutions and organizations are required to provide favourable, healthy and safe working conditions, to which end they must maintain proper standards of sanitation and hygiene and are in fact introducing the latest industrial safety systems.

The enterprises and organizations offer permanent and appropriately designed programmes to enable women to improve their professional qualifications.

Women enjoy the same rights as men to the remuneration of their labour in accordance with its quantity and quality. For equal work there is equal pay, regardless of sex, age or nationality (article 78 of the Labour Code of the MPR).

In accordance with the Constitution, women enjoy parity with men in their right to material security in connection with old age, sickness, the inability to work or the loss of a breadwinner. Pension payments are completely financed by the State and public organizations. Women are eligible for old-age pensions at age 55 after a total period of service of not less than 20 years, this being five years lower than the pensionable age for men. Women who have given birth to four or more children are entitled to an old-age pension at age 50 and after a period of service of not less than 15 years.

Disability pensions are granted on the loss of the ability to work as a result of a job injury or an occupational or general disease. In the first case, the pension is awarded regardless of the period of service, whereas in the second it depends on the recipient's age and total length of service (Pension Law of the MPR, articles 19 and 20).

In the Labour Code of the Mongolian People's Republic there is a special chapter dealing with the employment of women (articles 149-162). Under the Code, it is illegal to refuse to hire a woman, reduce her wages or salary, or dismiss her for reasons having to do with the fact that she is pregnant or is the mother of children. Similarly, it is forbidden to employ women in jobs involving strenuous and harmful working conditions and also in underground work; women may not be required to move heavy objects exceeding established permissible weight limits, nor may pregnant women, nursing mothers or women with children of up to one year of age be assigned to night-time work or overtime or be sent on mission.

The list of strenuous jobs or jobs involving harmful working conditions for which there is a ban on the employment of women is approved in the manner prescribed by the law. Women may not be employed in the mining (underground work), metalworking (smelting, casting or welding), chemical (glassblowing) and certain other industries.

Pregnant women who, because of their health, require lighter working conditions, may be permitted to work a shorter working day on the recommendation of a medical board.

In accordance with a medical finding of this kind, a pregnant woman may be transferred for the duration of her pregnancy to another, easier job. Nursing mothers and women with children of up to one year of age, if they are unable to perform their original job duties, are transferred to other work, but retain the average wage received in their former position.

Women are granted paid pregnancy and maternity leave, with retention of the right to their former job. If she so wishes, and regardless of her length of service, a woman may take her regular annual leave before or after her pregnancy or maternity leave.

The State is responsible for providing the necessary conditions to enable women to combine participation in public life with their family responsibilities. This is accomplished through the establishment and expansion of the network of kindergartens, nurseries and other children's establishments, and by improving the service and amenity sector and the dining facilities available to the public.

The accommodation of children in pre-school institutions is of great importance in the policy of measures to provide material assistance to families.

At present, 419 nurseries and 686 kindergartens are taking care of more than 82,300 children. Nursery accommodation for children of up to three years of age is free of charge.

Apart from an insignificant fee paid by the parents of attending children, the kindergartens are fully maintained by the State.

In the Basic Guidelines for the Economic and Social Development of the Mongolian People's Republic for the Period 1986-1990, there are plans for the State to finance the building of kindergartens and nurseries to accommodate 17,000 to 19,000 children. At the same time, there is to be an expanded programme of kindergarten and nursery construction by the enterprises, economic organizations and institutions themselves, using their own financial resources. In parallel, a consistent policy of extending the operating hours of the children's pre-school centres at the large industrial enterprises and economic organizations will be pursued.

In the Mongolian People's Republic, the protection of the health of the citizens is an integral part of the State's efforts at steadily improving the people's material and cultural standards of living and their working, living and leisure-time conditions.

As indicated in the Public Health Law (article 3), citizens of the MPR enjoy generally available and free competent medical care. The measures for protecting public health include: the expansion of the network of health care establishments, the implementation of preventive measures, the extensive introduction of the achievements of science and technology, measures for the safeguarding of the environment, the provision of the public and of the health care establishments with essential medicines and the necessary means of treatment, and the staffing of the health care system with highly qualified professionals.

Free and competent health care is delivered through a highly developed network of general and specialized hospitals, clinics and dispensaries providing in- and out-patient treatment and preventive medical services.

The State ascribes particular importance to health care for mothers and children. The Public Health Law of the MPR contains a special chapter on the protection of maternity and childhood. Maternity is encouraged and safeguarded by the State. For the purpose of protecting the health of mothers and children in accordance with Mongolian legislation, the network of women's and children's medical consultation offices, maternity homes, sanatoria and rest homes, nurseries and kindergartens is being expanded, women are granted pregnancy and maternity leave, breast-feeding breaks are scheduled during the working day, social insurance benefits are paid on the birth of a child and for the time spent nursing a sick child, improvements are being made in the working and living conditions of women, and mothers of numerous children have been made eligible for special allowances.

Women are entitled to 45 calendar days of pre-natal leave and 56 calendar days of post-natal leave, which is extended to 70 days (including the payment of a social insurance benefit) in the event of the birth of twins or of a birth involving medical complications. Further, mothers are entitled to additional, partially paid child-care leave until the child completes its sixth month, and beyond that period to still further leave at their own expense. In all these cases, the woman retains the right to her job.

Since January 1986, there has been an increase in the duration of leave and the size of benefits for mothers who have given birth to twins. Such women are granted child-care leave until their twins have completed one year of life.

Women who have adopted a newborn child are authorized an absence (handled as sick leave) extending from the day of adoption to the expiry of 56 days from the child's birthday, in addition to which they are paid an allowance by the State (Rules on the Payment of Social Insurance Allowances, articles 49 and 50).

Where necessary, abortions are performed, in hospital surroundings only, by physicians having the appropriate professional qualifications.

Pregnant women are kept under timely and competent observation at the health care establishments, which also provide in-patient medical assistance at the time of birth and general health services, including those of a preventive nature, for mothers and newborn children. Children are cared for at the children's clinics, dispenaries and hospitals. The nurseries and kindergartens are provided with the necessary conditions to enable them to safeguard and strengthen the health of the children and to raise them in hygienic surroundings.

During the elapsed period, a number of new facilities have been placed in operation, including, specifically, a 200-bed oncological centre, a 300-bed central clinical hospital and children's hospitals providing 120 beds.

Throughout the country there are in operation 79 general out-patient clinics and dispensaries, offering a total of 21,200 hospital beds. At present, 14.3 per cent of all hospital beds are assigned to mothers. For every 10,000 inhabitants, there are 111 hospital beds, 24 doctors and 79 middle-level medical workers. A 600-bed Mother and Child Care Centre is being built in the capital.

The health care system, which is one of the most outstanding achievements of the Mongolian People's Republic, has made it possible to improve the health of the public and to bring about a sharp decline in mortality and a considerable increase in longevity. At present, there has been a more than three-fold reduction in the mortality rate of children and a ten-fold reduction in that of mothers. The average longevity of the population has more than doubled and currently stands at 66 years. The population is expanding at a mean growth rate of nearly 2.6 per cent a year.

In the Basic Guidelines for the Economic and Social Development of the MPR, the country has been set the task of strengthening the material infrastructure of the health care services, of training larger numbers of personnel to occupy key positions, and of introducing a wider range of medical services. Under the latest five-year plan, more than 60 new facilities are to become operational, including, specifically, medical care centres, children's and specialized hospitals, maternity homes and clinics.

Particular attention will be directed towards health care for mothers and children, and there are plans to formulate and begin the implementation of a special programme in this area. The number of beds in the specialized children's hospitals is to rise by 15-17 per cent, and the number of paediatricians by 30 per cent. There will also be an increase in the number of children's medical sections, and additional maternity departments are to begin service in the aimaks (provinces) and cities.

For the purpose of encouraging maternity and assisting parents, and as an expression of concern for the health of children and their education, the State attaches great importance to the tasks of ensuring mothers the conditions necessary to enable them to participate actively in public and political life, of expanding the network of children's institutions and schools, and of making available State allowances and other benefits to families with numerous children.

Provisions along these lines are contained in the Constitution (article 84) and in the Family Code of the MPR (article 6).

A key role in the State's ability to make available assistance to families is played by what are known as the social consumption funds, which are used to finance major family requirements in connection with the protection of mothers and children.

The State makes annual payments of from 400 to 3,150 tugriks to mothers of from four to 10 children, while mothers of 10 or more children receive 400 tugriks for each child until the completion of its sixteenth year. At present, more than 90,000 mothers with large families are receiving State aid, whereby the benefits annually paid to these women total more than 80 million tugriks. Since 1985, mothers giving birth to twins have been paid an allowance of 300 tugriks for each child.

Rural women enjoy all the rights and privileges contemplated under the legislation. They have a guaranteed right to education and vocational training, to work and to the remuneration of their labour. All members of agricultural associations are not only literate, but more than 60 per cent of them have elementary and secondary education. In order to raise the general educational level of the rural workers, the network of secondary schools, technical colleges and vocational training centres is being expanded in every possible way. Some 60 per cent of all general educational schools in the country operate in rural areas. Part-time evening schools, along with correspondence courses aimed primarily at rural working men and women, have been extensively developed. Students taking advantage of these educational opportunities are eligible for supplementary paid leave and other privileges.

At present, 50.2 per cent of women work in agriculture. Particular attention is being directed to the task of expanding the provision of specialized medical care to the rural population. Currently, rural citizens can obtain such care at 1,800 medical points, somon 1/ branches and mobile out-patient dispensaries. More than 50 inter-somon hospitals outfitted with modern medical apparatus and equipment are in operation. In addition, medical stations operated by doctors and by doctors' assistants can be found at all the agricultural associations (255) and at 65 State farms. About half of all doctors per 10,000 inhabitants are serving the rural population. Rural communities enjoy complete medical coverage provided by graduate physicians.

In operation in rural localities there are more than 300 boarding homes for mothers, where at no charge they may spend 7 to 14 days before birth and a similar or, if necessary, longer period after birth. For the members of agricultural associations, in each aimak (province) inter-association rest homes and sanatoria have been set up, where every year more than 20,000 persons come for rest, recuperation and treatment.

In 1984, the Great Khural of the People of the Mongolian People's Republic adopted the Law on Pensions and Benefits for Members of Agricultural Associations. The unified system of State pension coverage extends to agricultural association members as well. Under the law, which increased pension entitlements and other benefits, the members of agricultural associations were made eligible for pensions at the same age as the industrial and office workers of State enterprises and institutions.

The improvement of the prosperity and of the social and living conditions of the rural population is an essential and integral part of the country's socio-economic policy.

In June 1985, a Special-Purpose Programme for the development of agriculture and the improvement of the food supply to the population of the MPR was adopted. The Programme contains a special section devoted to the question of improved social and living conditions in rural communities.

1/ A territorial administrative unit.

In accordance with this Special-Purpose Programme, there is to be an increase in the monetary income of workers at agricultural associations and State farms. The members of agricultural associations will be covered under the State social insurance system. Their pensions and benefits have also been increased. The task has been set of building rural homes with a total area of 250,000-300,000 m^2 during the period 1986-1990, with this construction to be subsequently expanded during the period to the year 2000. Other objectives are to build housing for the mecharization experts and specialists, and to provide improved housing conditions for the animal breeders. Encouragement and assistance will be given to home-building in rural areas by the direct-labour and co-operative methods, with the citizens called upon to pool their forces and resources. To this end, bank credits will be made available to rural workers, and arrangements have been devised to ensure the supply of the various construction materials required.

It is planned to increase the volume of amenity services, while at the same time improving their quality and broadening the range of services available. In all somons, centres will be created to provide animal breeders with stationary and mobile domestic services.

It is envisaged that measures will be taken to further improve the educational system and to strengthen the material infrastructure of the general-profile schools and vocational institutions. During the period 1986-1990, rural schools will be built to accommodate 25,000 persons, and during the period 1991-2000 for 60,000 students. Measures have been planned to provide complete boarding school coverage for the children of animal breeders and to increase the capacity of the rural kindergartens and nurseries by not less than 5,000 places during the period 1986-1990 and by some 15,000 places during the period from 1991 to the end of the century.

Particular attention will be devoted to providing the population with full coverage in the area of preventive medicine, to extending specialized medical care to rural communities, and to improving the organization of medical services. Mobile dispensaries, equipped with various kinds of laboratory devices, will be placed in service in all the aimaks, and the number of rural rest homes, resorts and sanatoria will be increased.

All these measures will create the necessary conditions for improving the situation of rural women.

Part IV of the Convention

(articles 15 and 16)

All citizens of the Mongolian People's Republic are equal before the law. The principle of equality before the law is asserted in the Civil Code.

This principle is also legislatively anchored in article 5 of the Law on the Organization of the Courts, in article 15 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and in article 5 of the Code of Civil Procedure of the Mongolian People's Republic. These texts establish the fact that justice in the MPR is administered on the basis of the equality of the citizens before the law and the courts, regardless of sex, national affiliation or social status.

Mongolian legislation asserts the equality of men and women in family relations. In accordance with the Family Code, marital life is based on the principles of voluntarism, mutual love, respect and mutual assistance on the part of the persons entering the marriage (article 3). No limitation whatsoever of the rights of citizens on entering marriage and in other family relations is permitted. Mongolian legislation permits a marriage to take place only on the condition that both the man and the woman voluntarily consent to it and that both have reached the marriageable age.

During the marriage and in the event of its dissolution, the spouses enjoy equal rights. They are required to contribute to the strengthening of the family, to participate equally in household tasks, and to assist one another in acquiring education and improving their skills.

Parents are obliged to educate their children (article 41 of the Family Code); moreover, this parental responsibility with respect to the education of the children continues even after a marriage has been dissolved. The parent with whom the children are living may not prevent the other parent from exercising these rights.

Measures of State and public pressure may be applied against parents, or parents may be deprived by the court of their parental rights, if it is established that they are shirking their responsibilities with respect to the raising of their minor children or that they are abusing their parental rights. In the event that both parents are deprived of their parental rights, the children become wards of the appropriate tutorial or guardianship authorities. However, the loss of parental rights does not release the parents from their responsibility of providing for the support of their children.

The parents themselves decide on the size of the family. Maternity is encouraged and safeguarded by the State.

Women have equal rights with respect to the adoption of children and the exercise of a tutorial or guardianship function. A woman who has adopted a child of not yet one year of age is entitled to post-natal leave and to receipt of a one-time allowance for the birth, care and nursing of the child, in addition to which she enjoys all the privileges of a nursing mother (article 54 of the Family Code).

All the goods and savings, as well as the personal belongings, acquired by the spouses during the marriage are recognized as constituting their joint property. These goods are regarded as joint property regardless of whose income - the husband's or the wife's - was used to acquire them.

Each of the spouses is equally entitled to own, use and dispose of the common joint property.

Such goods as belonged to each of the spouses before entering the marriage are their personal property. The spouses dispose of this personal property independently and as they see fit.

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CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER ARTICLE 18 OF THE CONVENTION

Second Periodic Reports of States Parties

Addendum

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

V.87 89281 0056e

1. This report supplements the initial report on the implementation in the Ukrainian SSR of the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/5/Add.11), which was considered by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its second session in August 1983 (see document CEDAW/C/SR.16 and 21). The report is submitted in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 18 of the Convention.

2. The general guidelines regarding the format and content of reports (CEDAW/C/7) adopted by the Committee at its second session were taken into account in preparing this report. Particular attention was paid to new legislative and other measures adopted since the submission of the original report, and to the actual progress achieved during that time in implementing the provisions of the Convention. In addition, the authors of the report have tried to avoid recapitulating the material contained in the earlier report and the supplementary information submitted by the representative of the Ukrainian SSR during its examination.

PART I

3. The victory of the Great October socialist revolution, whose seventieth anniversary will be widely commemorated in November 1987, laid the foundations for genuine equality of rights of women and men in our country. The new social structure freed women from economic and social oppression, and gave them equal access to employment and education as well as equal participation in political and social life, and shaped women's new image as an equal partner in running the country.

4. The period which has elapsed since the examination of the initial report of the Ukrainian SSR has been noteworthy for the holding, in February-March 1986, of the twenty-seventh Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the twenty-seventh Congress of the Communist Party of the Ukraine, which laid down a far-reaching programme for accelerating the social and economic development of the country. A noteworthy feature of the social programme worked out at the Congress is the implementation of an active social policy, development of the social sphere as a matter of priority, increasingly comprehensive attention to the needs of the population as a whole, including women, and proper conditions of work, living, leisure, education and medical services. It is specifically in the social sphere that the achievements of economic activity are being realized, achievements which affect the vital interests of the people and fulfil the higher aims of socialism, and it is precisely in this field that the humanistic nature of the socialist structure is most widespread and most visible.

5. Here are only a few figures to illustrate the implementation of the social programme in the eleventh Five-Year Plan (1981-1985). During this period, 325 billion roubles were spent on social development - 46 billion more than under the preceding Five-Year Plan. The real income of the population rose by 14 per cent. The average monthly salary of manual and white-collar workers increased by 12 per cent, while the wages of collective farm workers rose by 30 per cent, and the salaries of miners, teachers, doctors and a number of other categories of worker, totalling 3.7 million people, also increased. Per capita payments and benefits from the social consumption funds have risen by 22 per cent, reaching 510 roubles per year. The closest attention is paid in the Republic to solving such important social problems as providing the

population with housing. Over a period of five years in the Ukraine approximately 1.7 million new apartments have been built, thus improving the living conditions of 7.7 million people.

6. All these measures make it possible to achieve greater implementation of the constitutional provision on the equal rights of women and men in the Ukrainian SSR (article 33 of the Constitution).

PART II

Article 7

7. Considerable importance is attached in the Ukrainian SSR to ensuring the equality of men and women in all fields of social life, including the political and public aspects.

8. Women in the Soviet Ukraine participate on the basis of equal rights in the country's society and the running of the State. In the highest organ of State authority - the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR - 234 of the deputies, or 36 per cent, are women, while of the deputies in local Soviets 261,123 are women, representing 49.6 per cent. The Chairman of Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR is Valentina Shevchenko, a member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Ukraine.

9. Women are also actively engaged in the highest executive and administrative organ of State authority in the Ukrainian SSR, namely the Council of Ministers of the Republic, of which Mariya Orlik is a Deputy Chairman. Women make up more than half the staff of Government and economic administration. More than a third of the Judges and half the Assessors in the People's Courts are women. They also make a significant contribution to the activities of non-governmental organizations. Thousands of them belong to various non-governmental councils and commissions, where they gain valuable experience of public administration. Women play an extremely important role in such broadly-based workers' organizations as the trade unions. More than 1.6 million women have been elected to trade union bodies at all levels - from the local level to that of the Council of Trade Unions of the Ukrainian Republic - and represent 58 per cent of all those elected. Women make up more than half of the leadership of local trade union organizations.

10. All this goes to show that in many respects women are indispensable for the fulfilment of the projects being carried out in our society today, for accelerating the country's social and economic development, achieving the production plans being prepared with women's participation, and implementing an active social policy. At the present time the goal is to involve women more actively in economic and cultural administration.

11. In response to the encouragement and confidence shown by the State, women are increasingly actively involved in the work of non-governmental organizations, while in women's own organizations an organizational consolidation is under way. Everywhere women's councils are being set up in workers' collectives and on a neighbourhood basis. On 17 January 1987, an organizational meeting was held of the Republic Council of Women, over which Mariya Orlik, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian SSR was elected to preside. The Republic Council serves as the umbrella body for more than 52,000 women's workplace and neighbourhood councils. These organizations are helping to bring about the broader involvement of women in political life and in the management of the affairs of the State and society, in

addition to contributing to the all-round development of the creative talents of women and to pooling their efforts in the struggle for peace and friendship among nations.

12. The establishment of a unified system of women's councils is one of the ways of ensuring the increasing democratization of our society and the further development of socialist self-administration on the part of the people.

Article 8

13. The social and political activity of Ukrainian women may also be seen in their participation in efforts to strengthen international peace and co-operation, to avert the threat of nuclear war and to put an end to nuclear testing, as well as in their involvement in the various campaigns that have been mounted to show solidarity and support for those women who are the victims of such massive and flagrant violations of human rights as apartheid and all forms of racism, racial discrimination, colonialism, neo-colonialism, aggression, and foreign occupation and domination.

14. In the Ukrainian SSR, women enjoy opportunities equal to those of men for participating in non-governmental organizations concerned with the strengthening of international peace and security and with the development of friendly relations and co-operation among States. For example, one out of every three active members of the Ukrainian Society for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and of the Ukrainian Republic Committee for the Defence of Peace is a woman.

15. Millions of Ukrainian women also played an active role in the 175,000 anti-war events that took place in 1986 as part of the observance of the International Year of Peace. These events were co-ordinated by the Peace Year Commission of the Ukrainian SSR, whose membership included women. In the course of these events, the women of the Ukrainian SSR added their voices to those raised in support of broadly-based initiatives, aimed at the creation of conditions to ensure the survival of mankind and reliable security for all countries and peoples.

16. Women of the Soviet Ukraine took an active part in the 25,000 events held in cities and villages of the Republic from 8 to 15 May 1987 within the framework of the Week of Action for Security and Co-operation in Europe. A total of 13.5 million people took part in these events.

17. Ukrainian women are regularly included in the Government's delegations to the sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, its organs and its specialized agencies and to international conferences and meetings. Women headed the Ukrainian delegations to the conferences in Mexico City, Copenhagen and Nairobi, where they took an active part in the drafting and adoption of the final documents, which have come to serve as guidelines for the implementation of international co-operation in the cause of enhancing the status of women.

18. At present, the women of the Republic are participating in the preparations for the World Congress of Women, which is to be held from 23 to 27 June 1987 in Moscow under the motto "Towards the Year 2000 - Without Nuclear Weapons! For peace, equality, development!".

Article 10

19. During the reporting period the consistent implementation of the principle of equal rights for women and men in the field of education and vocational

training continued. In 1986, there were 728,000 boys and girls receiving secondary education, and of these 211,000, or one in three, were learning a trade.

20. In the Ukrainian SSR there are no restrictions on women working as teachers. The number of women teachers and educators in the schools of the Republic represents 79 per cent of the total. In educational planning and in the administration of national educational bodies of the Republic, women staff accounted for 56.9 per cent of the total in 1984, which represents a 0.2 per cent increase over 1975.

21. In the Ukrainian SSR equal opportunities are provided for girls and women in the field of vocational instruction and training, and also for their work as teachers, skilled instructors in production, and as administrators of vocational training institutions. In the Republic the training of girls as skilled workers has been expanded, and their involvement in work and public-interest activities has increased. The number of girls attending day vocational training institutions has risen. After finishing general education in school, 45 per cent of girls learn a trade in technical institutes.

22. In recent years there has been a considerable expansion in the training of girls as skilled workers for agriculture, for light and local industry, welfare work, municipal services, trade and public catering. Vocational training for girls is carried on at day vocational training institutions and also at part-time night classes (based on a shift system). These institutions accept students who have completed an eight-year or secondary general-educational school.

23. Girls and boys are trained side by side in vocational technical schools. There are no differences, for example in the duration of study, as regards their vocational training, with the exception of the enrolment of young people in vocational training institutions for occupations involving harmful, arduous or dangerous work, or transport. In such cases girls are trained in accordance with the labour legislation in force, which prohibits or restricts the use of female labour in such jobs.

24. Girls and women who have interrupted their education have the opportunity to acquire a trade on a part-time basis in an evening (shift-based) vocational training institution. If necessary, girls and women may enrol in day vocational training establishments in order to train for a second occupation, if the work for which they were previously trained in the vocational training institution is contra-indicated on grounds of deteriorating health, because of a move to a new place of residence where employment in the previous occupation is not available, or for the purpose of acquiring a related skill.

25. In the vocational and technical educational sphere in the Ukrainian SSR there has been a marked trend towards bringing the status of women teachers into line with that of men, in the case of teachers of engineering as well as senior staff.

26. In higher educational institutions of the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education in the Ukraine almost 20,000 women are employed as academic and teaching staff (35.6 of the total), including some 4,500 women with higher degrees.

27. Girls have access to all higher educational institutions. The table below shows the percentage change in the proportion of female students in the overall total of students in higher educational institutions in the Republic:

	Academic year			
	1975/76	1980/81	1983/84	1985/86
Higher educational institutions	49.2	52.2	53.8	56.7
Including full-time training	48.2	50.4	52.4	

28. The most noteworthy trend is the percentage increase in the number of female students in higher educational institutions for industry and construction, transport and communications, economics and law. Kiev State University illustrates the growing number of women students in the Republic: over a 10-year period the number of women students in full-time training at Kiev State University rose from 44.8 per cent of the total to 57.2 per cent.

29. Women have considerable opportunities to acquire higher education and to apply their creative energies in all spheres of activity, except for those specialized fields of the economy in which work involves an element of danger to their health. For example, in the Dnepropetrovsk Metallurgical Institute women are not enrolled in the departments of ferrous metals metallurgy or pressure treatment of metals.

30. Recently there has been a marked increase in the number of students with families. Such students account for 50 per cent of the total number of graduates from higher educational institutions in the Republic. All are allocated individual rooms in the student hostels. Kindergartens and crèches are among the services provided to student-mothers to enable them to finish their studies. The network of polyclinics, sanatoria and preventive clinics and summer holiday centres affiliated to the higher educational institutions is growing with every year.

31. Men and women have equal access to special information of an educational character for the purposes of safeguarding the health and well-being of their families, including information and consultations on family planning.

32. In the Ukrainian SSR a comprehensive scientific and practical programme for health and hygiene education in matters relating to safeguarding the health of women and children has been prepared and is being introduced. Obstetrical and gynaecological doctors, paediatricians and research and teaching staff in medical educational institutions are carrying out a wide range of consultative and health-educational work among the population in courses for mothers and fathers, in children's polyclinics, and in medical and genetic consultations.

33. A new form of out-patient polyclinic services for women - the "Doctor and Family" consultations - has been widely established. These provide consultative assistance on genetic matters and sex education, in addition to their primary functions of preparing young people to carry out their roles as family members and parents and advocating a healthy way of life.

34. In the Ukraine, 1,489 popular universities and 3,252 faculties of medicine and hygiene, with students numbering 538,900, are involved in transferring specialist medical information. For this purpose widespread use is made of the facilities offered by the press, radio, television and the cinema: every year there are some 50 television broadcasts, more than 4,500 radio broadcasts, over 3,000 film shows, and in the press more than 2,000 articles are published.

35. Percentage among total students of women studying in higher and secondary specialized educational institutions

(Percentage of total student numbers)

(At commencement of the academic year)

	1975/76	1980/81	1985/86
Percentage of women in total number of students in higher educational institutions	49.2	52.2	56.7
In educational institutions:			
For industry and construction	41.5	44.7	48.7
For transport and communications	26.5	29.9	32.1
For agriculture	34	35.8	39.9
For economics and law	69	73.2	74.1
For public health, physical culture and sport	50.5	51.8	58.4
For teaching, art and cinematography	67.5	69.5	74.8
Percentage of women in total number of students in secondary educational institutions	52.2	56	58.2
In educational institutions:			
For industry and construction	42.2	46.7	48.3
For transport and communications	24.4	29.1	31.1
For agriculture	34	35.7	36.3
For economics and law	86.9	87.4	86.4
For public health, physical culture and sport	76.7	80.5	82.5
For teaching, art and cinematography	82.2	85.4	88

36. Number of women teachers in secondary general-educational day-schools of the Ministry of Education of the Ukrainian SSR

(At commencement of the academic year)

	Number of teachers (excl. those holding several posts) In 1000s		Incl. women		Percentage of women in total number of teachers and school administrators		
	1975/76	1982/83	1975/76	1982/83	1975/76	1982/83	1985/86
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Total teachers (incl. school administrators)*							
Total	413.4	387.7	304.5	295.2	74	76	77.1
Incl.:							
Directors of primary schools	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	75	100	100
Directors of eight-year schools	10.1	8.8	2.9	3.2	29	37	40.7
Directors of secondary schools	8.0	8.6	2.1	3.1	26	36	39.9
Deputy directors of eight-year schools	5.3	3.7	3.5	2.8	67	74	77.9
Deputy directors of secondary schools	17.9	19.2	12.6	15.2	70	79	82.6
Teachers of classes 1-10/11, excl. school administrators	317.2	294.2	269.2	254.0	85	86	90
Teachers of music, singing, drawing, technical drawing, physical culture and vocational education	54.9	53.2	14.2	16.9	26	32	34.0

* School administrators are normally also engaged in teaching duties.

37. In the Ukrainian SSR women have wide opportunities of access to employment in scientific posts. This is shown by the data given in the following table.

Women scientists

	1975	1980	1982	1985
Total number of women scientists	61.9	72.9	78.1	79.3
Incl. those with higher degrees:				
Doctor of Science	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8
Candidate of Science	12.1	14.5	16.0	17.4
Number of women scientists holding academic titles:				
Academician, Associate Member of the Academy, Professor	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5
Assistant Professor	3.0	4.1	4.6	5.1
Senior Scientific Officer	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.1
Junior Scientific Officer and Assistant	1.1	0.9	0.7	1.8

Article 11

38. In the Ukrainian SSR consistent practical implementation of the Constitutional provision on the equal rights of women and men to work, to choice of profession, to remuneration for work and to promotion in employment is continuing. A broad range of specific measures on the protection of women's employment and health, on the creation of conditions enabling women to combine work with motherhood, on legal protection and on material and moral support for mothers and children also continues to be implemented.

39. Women account for 52 per cent (10.7 million) of all workers in the Republic. Approximately 40 per cent of them are employed in industry, construction, transport and communications, while almost 30 per cent are involved in the social and cultural sphere, and about 15 per cent in trade, municipal services and welfare work. The highest percentage of women in the overall total of manual and office workers in 1985 was in trade and public catering (85 per cent), in public health, physical education and social security (81 per cent), in public education (75 per cent), and in culture, recreation and entertainment (74 per cent).

40. Proportion of women in the total number of manual and office workers by economic sector

	1975	1982 (percentage)	1985
Total all sectors	52	52	52
Trade and public catering; materials and machinery supply and sales; procurements	77	79	85
Public health, physical culture and social security	83	82	81
Public education	73	74	75
Culture, recreation and entertainment	69	73	74

41. Women working in the national economy have a high level of education which is tending to rise. In the economy of the Ukrainian SSR as a whole, women account for 59 per cent (3.7 million) of the specialists with higher and secondary specialized education.

Number of women specialists with higher and secondary specialized education employed in the national economy

(thousands)

Specialists	1975	1980	1985
1	2	3	4
Total number of women specialists with higher and secondary specialized education	2 532.3	3 157.6	3 740.4
With higher education	936.0	1 189.9	1 440.1
Including:			
Engineers	225.4	325.7	412.2
Agronomists, livestock management specialists, veterinary surgeons and forestry officers	35.4	42.6	46.0
Economists	108.0	158.3	202.7
Doctors	92.5	106.3	126.0
Teachers	422.7	491.5	566.3

Specialists	1975	1980	1985
1	2	3	4
With secondary specialized education	1 596.3	1 967.7	2 300.3
Including:			
Technicians	445.0	580.9	695.2
Agronomists, livestock management specialists, veterinary assistants and technicians, and forestry officers	88.5	108.5	119.5
Planners and statisticians	268.2	355.0	425.6
Medical workers	388.8	425.1	464.5
Teachers	215.0	242.8	280.6

42. The introduction of new techniques and technology and the growth in the cultural and educational level of manual and office workers enables women to enter new professions which require high qualifications. Women are increasingly employed in such complex areas of production as radio engineering and instrument-making, and less and less often in ancillary capacities.

43. Scientific and technological progress helps to cut down on manual labour and to eliminate those of its forms which are arduous and harmful. It has led to the appearance of new occupations and a reduction in the incidence of occupational disease and industrial injury. It is bringing about qualitative changes in the deployment of female labour in industry, as well as a pronounced trend towards the increasing employment of women in this area of the economy. The widespread use of female labour in industry, which generates the major part of the national income, and whose expansion dictates the growth of the technical capacity of the entire national economy, testifies to the increasing role of women in social production.

44. The problems of women at work are accordingly reflected in the social development plans of enterprises. The planned improvements in the conditions of work for women in enterprises embrace a wide range of technical and economic, organizational, social and other measures. Social development plans in enterprises, particularly as regards the status of women in production, are drawn up after a thoroughgoing review of the nature and conditions of the work and after determining the degree of socially useful activity of the different categories of worker. As a result measures are under consideration for the improvement of the working, living and recreational conditions of women workers.

45. A specific and wide-ranging programme to cut down on the use of manual labour in the economy of the Ukrainian SSR for the period 1986-1990 and up to the year 2000 (by the end of the twelfth Five-Year Plan) is aimed at freeing all working women from heavy physical labour.

46. The system of a partial working day or week for women in accordance with a sliding (flexible) schedule, and also at-home work, has become more widely practised. The Regulations for the procedure and conditions for using the sliding (flexible) timetable for the employment of women who have children were approved on 6 June 1984. Under these Regulations, such a timetable is agreed on my management and the female worker, at the time of recruitment and during employment, for women who, because of the need to look after their children, are unable to keep to the normal timetable for the enterprise, establishment or organization concerned.

47. A Decree of the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian SSR of 15 May 1984 established a six-hour working day (36 hours per week) and annual leave of 36 working days for nurses engaged in the care of children under the age of three, and for staff responsible for day-care groups in children's pre-school establishments and children's homes. High priority is also given to the construction of pre-school facilities for children in regions in which the level of female employment in social production is high, and in newly established cities.

48. Close attention is paid in the Republic to measures aimed at protecting women at work and establishing healthy and safe working conditions for them. These concerns are consistently reflected in the collective agreements drawn up annually between the administrations of enterprises, institutions and organizations and the trade union committees. At the present time, more than 31,000 collective agreements are in force in the Republic. Of the 3.42 million clauses included in these bilateral binding instruments, almost 200,000 relate to the eleventh, special chapter of the agreements, containing provisions directly aimed at improving the working and living conditions of women and at helping them to bring up their children.

49. The question of safeguarding the health of women in conditions in manufacturing industry in which there is a risk factor is at the forefront of concern for scientists and specialists in the field of health. The introduction in recent years of a number of scientifically valid proposals by scientists to limit noise and dust, and to ensure optimum lighting and to create a micro-climate on the shop-floor have reduced the incidence of gynaecological diseases in chemical and textile enterprises and in tyre and vacuum tube plants by a factor of two. A list of plants, occupations and jobs which involve heavy and harmful conditions of work, and in which it is forbidden to employ women, has been drawn up.

50. During the period of the eleventh Five-Year Plan (1981-1985) alone, working conditions for more than 1.6 million women were brought into line with new and more stringent norms and regulations for labour protection as a result of work carried out on the reconstruction, retooling and overhaul of factory premises and plant. Working conditions for more than 360,000 women working in jobs which involve a high level of noise and vibration have been improved, while nearly 122,000 women have been released from jobs in which working conditions are harmful.

51. Labour legislation in the Republic provides for a series of benefits for women to enable them to combine socially useful employment and motherhood.

52. In enterprises and organizations in which extensive use is made of female labour there are crèches, kindergartens, rooms for nursing mothers and rest rooms for women. In 1985 alone, pre-school children's facilities with places for 89,000 children came into operation. All-day pre-school facilities are now available for 2.6 million children.

53. During the reporting period measures to ensure the equality of rights of women and men to social security have continued to be implemented. These measures include, in particular, the Government Decree of 9 January 1986 on the payment of State benefits for single mothers to widows who have children but are not receiving a children's allowance for loss of the breadwinner.

54. Constant attention is paid in the Ukrainian SSR by the Party and the Government to improving the pensions system and the social security of the population. In the years of the eleventh Five-Year Plan the population of the Republic has received payments and benefits from social consumption funds, under the article entitled "Social security and social insurance", amounting to 52.1 billion roubles, including pensions totalling 40.7 billion roubles and

benefits of 9.7 billion roubles. As of 1 January 1986, there were 12 million pensioners, including 3.3 million pensioners of collective farms. Pension insurance in our country is wholly provided from State Funds and the funds of collective farms, and no deductions are made from the income of workers.

55. The years 1984-1986 saw the continuing implementation of measures to improve the population's pension insurance. In May 1985 the Edict of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR "On further improvement of the pension insurance of manual and office workers, collective farm workers and their families" was adopted. It provides for an increase in pensions, which had been fixed more than 10 years previously, and further improvement in the pension insurance of collective farm workers. The minimum pension rates, which were fixed more than 10 years ago in the case of old age and disability pensions and pensions for the loss of the breadwinner, have been increased, as have the minimum pension rates for collective farm workers.

56. In order to bring about a further improvement in the standard of living of sectors of the population which are not sufficiently provided for, and in particular citizens living on their own or those who are unable to work, the Edict of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions "On urgent measures for improving the material well-being of pensioners and families not sufficiently provided for and for intensifying the care of elderly citizens living on their own" of 14 May 1985 was adopted. It provides for a series of supplementary measures to improve their pension entitlements, to extend the system of social services for the elderly and the disabled, and to strengthen State assistance to families with children. The rates of allowances for citizens who are living on their own and are not receiving a pension were increased as early as 1 November 1985. In compliance with the Edict, dated 14 June 1985, of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Ukraine, the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian SSR and the Council of Trade Unions of the Ukrainian Republic on this matter, it is proposed that, during the twelfth Five Year Plan, residential homes for elderly and disabled persons with places for 6,000 people should be built, that the communal facilities of all existing residential homes should be completed and the necessary facilities and equipment provided. A number of supplementary measures for the construction of residential homes in rural areas from funds provided by collective and State farms have been adopted, as well as measures to provide assistance on a patronage basis, and to improve medical and social and cultural services for elderly citizens and disabled people living on their own.

Article 12

57. During the reporting period systematic work was carried out in the Republic with the aim of developing and improving the system of social health care, and of upgrading the quality of medical services for the population. State budgetary allocations for these purposes have been growing from year to year: for 1981-1985 State budgetary expenditure in the Ukrainian SSR on preventive medical and health institutions and measures rose by 14.6 per cent, accounting in 1985 for 2.5 billion roubles.

58. The network of medical institutions providing the population with out-patients' polyclinic services has expanded, and their numbers by the end of 1985 had reached 6,300. In the period 1981-1985 the number of hospital beds in the Republic rose by 41,800, totalling 668,900 in 1985. In the same year the availability of hospital beds was equivalent to 131.5 per 10,000 of the population.

59. In 1985 there were 210,600 doctors and 566,600 other medical personnel engaged in providing health services for the population. The number of doctors represented 41.4 per 10,000 of population.

60. In 1986 the number of doctors in all specialities rose by 4,000, while the number of hospital beds increased by more than 7,000. Accordingly, there are 42 doctors and 132 hospital beds per 10,000 of population. Hospitals with a capacity of 11,900 beds have been built, as well as out-patients' polyclinic services to handle 35,300 consultations per shift. The number of places in sanatoria, boarding schools and holiday and tourist centres has risen by more than 19,000, and now exceeds 668,000. More than five million children and adolescents have spent the summer in pioneer and school camps or in excursion and tourist centres, or have gone to spend the summer holidays in country areas with facilities for children.

61. These measures have helped to improve medical services for women. Taking only the years of the eleventh Five-Year Plan (1981-1985), 35 maternity homes, 12 consultation centres for women, 46 children's hospitals and 17 children's polyclinics were built at a total cost of more than 100 million roubles. Gynaecological offices (consultation rooms) have been organized in all medical and health units; here working women can obtain qualified obstetrical and gynaecological assistance at convenient times. All working women in the Ukrainian SSR are now covered by a twice-yearly preventive examination.

62. Particular attention and care are devoted to women workers during the period of pregnancy. Medical supervision and treatment, free of charge, is available for women in industrial enterprises, in addition to subsidized catering.

Article 13

63. In the Ukrainian SSR legislative provisions relating to this article of the Convention are being consistently implemented.

64. In recent years increasing emphasis is being placed on the treatment of women workers in the sanatoria and preventive medicine centres of industrial enterprises as part of the package of measures aimed at safeguarding and strengthening their health. Currently, in more than 400 such establishments more than 700,000 women, 45 per cent of whom are pregnant, are treated annually.

65. Constant attention is paid by the trade union organizations to matters relating to women's health. In 1985, in the sanatoria and preventive medicine centres run by the trade unions alone, 290,600 women were treated, including 29,500 mothers with children. More than 200,000 people were issued with family passes to health resorts run by the trade unions in the Republic.

66. Much work is being done in connection with health care for the children of workers by the trade union organizations, which provide assistance to families and schools for the upbringing of the current generation. In 1985 more than 2.7 million children had holidays in trade union pioneer camps, and 50 per cent of the passes were made available without charge.

67. In 1985 the total number of people who took holidays or were treated in sanatoria, rest homes or tourist centres, or who took tours, was 12.1 million.

Article 14

68. As a result of the important social measures which have been implemented in the eleventh Five-Year Plan, the average monthly earnings of collective farm workers rose by 30 per cent, and the real incomes of collective farm workers, per family member, actually exceeded those of office and manual workers.

69. Considerable attention is also paid to the provision of housing for the rural population. From 1980 to 1985 the rural housing stock rose by 10.5 million square metres, and consisted of 326.1 million square metres. In 1986 housing with an overall area of 5.6 million square metres was built in rural areas. At the beginning of 1986 the rural population's average provision of housing in relation to the total area of housing was 18.6 square metres (as against 15.2 square metres for the urban population).

70. The standards of medical services provided for the urban and rural populations are being steadily aligned. In 1985, in comparison to 1970, the number of doctors in all specialities per 10,000 of population rose by 31 per cent, while the number of hospital beds increased by 10 per cent; the corresponding figures per 10,000 of the rural population (taking into account the use of urban treatment and preventive medicine facilities) were 77 and 40 per cent.

71. These and other measures ensure that women in rural areas are able to benefit fully and in practical terms from the social and economic, political and individual rights and freedoms affirmed in the Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR and from the provisions of the Convention.

Articles 15 and 16

72. For the reporting period no amendments affecting the provisions of articles 15 and 16 of the Convention were introduced into the legislation in force in the Republic, which was discussed in detail in the initial report.

UNITED NATIONS

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CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER ARTICLE 18 OF THE CONVENTION

Second periodic reports of States parties

Addendum

HONDURAS

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INTRODUCTION

Women in Honduras have been fighting for many years against discimination and for equality before the law in terms of rights and obligations.

These efforts are reflected in the progress achieved since 1955 when women were granted political rights and thus enabled to participate in the country's political life, exercising the right to vote and assuming an active role in the development of the life of the nation. Although there was some initial timidity, women now represent a decision-making force in many areas of national life.

Women in Honduras have demonstrated that they are able to collaborate in all activities related to individual and collective development. The Government is aware of this and has made efforts to find the necessary means to eliminate all forms of discrimination so that women may have full equality of rights in the political, economic, social, cultural and civil spheres.

This government policy has resulted in important reforms to promote women in Honduras, leading to the promulgation of the new Penal and Family Codes, in 1983 and 1984 respectively.

However, despite these efforts women have still not achieved full enjoyment of the rights concerned, not because of the absence of an effective legal structure, but rather because of deep-rooted practices and customs in our society, and the idea that the primary role of women is to carry out domestic duties.

The Government is striving to remove some of these obstacles by broadening the strategies established in order to strengthen women's participation at all levels, including the decision-making level.

WOMEN IN HONDURAN LEGISLATION

The 1957 and 1982 Honduran Constitutions implicitly and tacitly recognized the equality of the sexes, as well as guaranteeing the right to acquire and exercise citizenship, by stating that "all Hondurans aged over 18 years" are citizens.

In line with this constitutional provision all citizens are guaranteed the exercise of political rights (the right to vote and to seek popularly elected posts and other rights acknowledged by the Constitution and legislation).

Furthermore, the 1981 Political Organizations Law granted such rights equally to all citizens. It is worth mentioning that, in the exercise of these rights, considerable changes have taken place with regard to the participation of women in public life and many women have reached high posts in the diplomatic field, in the Ministries of Education and the Economy and in the appeals court structure. Women have also become involved in the various branches of the armed services.

In the context of this equalization of rights between men and women, Honduras acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1980.

The most important achievement in recent years was the approval of the Family Code, embodying provisions of the 1979 Convention, which put an end, at least from the legal standpoint, to any discrimination in the Civil Code. The changes were as follows:

- The Code states that the domicile of the spouses is to be the joint home and that, on separation, each is to have domicile in the place where he or she takes up residence.

- With the establishment of the legal equality of the spouses with regard to the rights and duties arising from marriage, such as mutual fidelity, reciprocal protection and assistance and equal opportunities to carry on occupations and vocations, the husband loses the absolute right of representation of the family formerly recognized by the Civil Code.

- The spouses are both to contribute to the costs of running the home, according to their resources and economic capability, but the woman is granted a preferential right to the salary, wage or income of the husband up to the amount required to feed her and their children.

- A de facto union generates the same effects as a legal marriage (civil marriage) when acknowledged by the competent authority. For such a union to be formalized a number of requirements set out in the Code must be fulfilled.

- Patria potestas now applies to both parents and not solely to the father, unless it is granted to one parent by legal judgement, with preference being given to the woman in the event of disagreement between the spouses.

- The Constitution recognizes divorce as a means of terminating marital bonds by mutual consent or on the grounds established by law.

- The Family Code indicates that manifest and public infidelity on the part of either spouse is grounds for divorce, thus eliminating the discrimination in the Civil Code which penalized only the illicit relations of the wife.

NEW PENAL CODE

The 1906 Penal Code contained provisions which discriminated against women. The new Code has eliminated some of these by taking a more modern legal view:

- The fact that a wife is killed when discovered in adultery is no longer an exonerating circumstance, and the act becomes a serious crime punishable by imprisonment for a period of 15-20 years.

- Provision is made for ethical and therapeutic abortion. This sacrifice of the life of the foetus may only be authorized with the consent of the mother, thus respecting her right to motherhood.

- The Code guarantees greater protection for the family on the part of persons who are legally obliged to provide subsistence and cease to do so.

LABOUR CODE

In the area of labour legislation, women have the same rights and obligations as men, except those that are specific to women and are set out in the laws.

These exceptions relate to pregnancy, breast-feeding and maternity leave. Women's rights in these circumstances include a rest period before and after birth. Without prejudice to their jobs or wages, they have a rest period of six weeks before and six weeks after the birth and the breast-feeding period is one hour per day for six months.

- Antenatal, natal and post-natal medical care and the money subsidies stipulated are to be provided by the Honduran Social Security Institute (IHSS).

- In the event that the employer fails to fulfil the obligation of providing paid leave, the woman worker has the right to seek compensation amounting to double the amount of the remuneration for the leave not granted.

- Women who do domestic work are not covered by the social security system or the benefits provided under the Labour Code, giving rise to discriminatory treatment as a result of motherhood.

- The Constitution, in line with the Labour Code, precludes the possibility of discrimination against women regarding wages. Both texts expressly lay down the principle of equal pay for equal work. However, the fact that most working women are unaware of the laws protecting them permits some exploitation of their labour.

AGRARIAN REFORM LAW

As is the case in all developing countries, women in the rural areas of Honduras have not become fully integrated in national development for socio-economic and cultural reasons. Their work is generally limited to domestic tasks and their participation in agriculture has always been to help men. Nevertheless, in recent years there has been pressure for their direct integration in agrarian reform and many farming and stock-breeding projects are now administered by women's groups.

There are currently 24 groups made up of rural women, with a total of 360 members implementing a variety of projects with external financing. It is also worth pointing out that, to assist these rural communities and co-operatives, arrangements have been made to provide them with educational and health services and training in activities going beyond the roles of mother and housewife (women leaders).

WOMEN IN EDUCATION

In Honduras there is no discrimination in education. Women may freely choose the course they prefer, even from among those which used to be the domain of men, such as agronomy, veterinary science, forestry, etc.

Special mention may be made of the women's training programmes provided by INFOP, which, although confined to traditional training areas such as confectionery, floristry, handicrafts, dressmaking and tailoring, help to prepare women and permit them to engage in productive work once they have acquired the knowledge imparted.

In the context of these important social reforms, article 148 of the Constitution of the Republic refers to the establishment of the Honduran Institute for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Addiction, which will assist in eradicating one of the most serious problems afflicting young people.

We give below a more detailed summary of the legislation adopted and a list of action being taken in rural areas to improve the situation of women. We also give some comparative statistics regarding the situation of women during the Decade for Women, during which the most important action taken by the Government was the inclusion in the National Development Plan of the sector "Women's welfare",

involving specialized personnel of the Technical Secretariat of the Planning Council to diagnose the situation of women and identify action to be taken to eliminate discrimination and incorporate women in the country's development plans. It is also worth stressing the encouragement that has been given to women's groups to organize themselves in line with their interests, by recognizing them as legal entities and promoting their activities by means of fiscal concessions.

On 25 November 1974, the Honduran Government was very pleased to associate itself with the initiative of the United Nations, which under resolution 3010 proclaimed 1975 as International Women's Year and the decade ending in 1985 as the Decade for Women, with the aim of achieving equality, development and peace through women's activities. In so doing, through a proclamation, the Government recognized the Honduran woman as the focus of the family, stressing her magnificent contribution to the development of the country and the legal inequality between the sexes in the two main branches of law: public and private. An undertaking was also made to eliminate all forms of discrimination and the public sectors were recommended to "promote a régime of equality and justice".

On 18 December 1979, the General Assembly approved the Convention on the Elimination on All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which was approved by the Honduran Government on 14 May 1980 and ratified on 10 September 1980 in Decree No. 970 published in Official Gazette No. 232003. The instrument of ratification was deposited with the United Nations Secretariat in November 1982.

Against this background, the Honduran Government has striven to eliminate legal norms which, in one way or another, have discriminated against women in the exercise of their rights.

We shall go on to analyse the legislation that has been enacted, making a comparison with the previous situation in order to provide a full catalogue of the Government's efforts in this area, in line with the provisions of the Convention which, based on the Declaration of Human Rights, reaffirms the principle of non-discrimination and, in article 2 (a), calls on States to embody the principle of equality of men and women in their national Constitutions or other appropriate legislation if it is not yet incorporated therein, and to ensure, through law and other appropriate means, the practical realization of this principle.

EQUALITY OF WOMEN BEFORE THE LAW

In the Constitution of Honduras issued in January 1982 by Decree 131 of 1982, article 60 states: "In Honduras there are no privileged classes and all Hondurans are equal before the law. Any discrimination on the grounds of sex, race or class and any discrimination prejudicial to human dignity is punishable. The law shall establish the offences and penal sanctions for offenders in this area."

Article 61 states that the Constitution guarantees Hondurans and foreigners resident in the country the right to inviolability of life, to individual security, to liberty, to equality before the law and to property. Article 64 stipulates that no laws or governmental or other provisions shall be approved which regulate the implementation of the declarations, rights and guarantees established in this Constitution if they would cause the same to be reduced, restricted or distorted.

NEW PENAL CODE

Article 2 (g) of the Convention commits States to repeal all national penal provisions which constitute discrimination against women.

The current Penal Code was promulgated by Legislative Decree No. 144-83 of 26 September 1983, accompanied by the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Law on the Rehabilitation of Offenders.

These new legal texts abolished all the discrimination contained in the 1906 Penal Code, such as the exemption from criminal liability for a husband who, on surprising his wife in the act of adultery, killed, injured or maltreated her or her accomplice, on the understanding that misconduct on the part of the husband did not excuse the fault of the wife; such killing has now become an offence of homicide, as follows: "Article 122. A person who, on surprising his spouse or the person with whom he leads a marital life in the act of intercourse with another person, kills or injures either or both of them, provided that the offender has a record of good behaviour and that the opportunity for committing the crime was not provoked or simply facilitated by knowledge of the conjugal or marital infidelity, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of between four and six years (without the possibility of bail)."

Adultery and concubinage were deleted from the heading of "offences against decency".

Offences against sexual freedom and indecent offences, such as rape, seduction and abduction (violación, estupro, ultraje al pudor and rapto), are subject to punishments more severe than those contained in the previous Code, particularly with reference to crimes committed against minors.

For the first time in this new Penal Code reference is made to the offence of refusal of family assistance, making it punishable to cease to provide subsistence for the spouse, children aged under 21 years or a ward under one's guardianship without proper cause. The use of insolvency, transfer of property to third persons, abandonment of employment or any other fraudulent means to avoid fulfilling the obligation to provide sustenance is also punishable.

These punishments are without prejudice to the obligation of the person concerned to provide sustenance.

With regard to offences against other persons, the provisions of the previous Code concerning a penalty of 15 to 60 days' imprisonment for a husband or partner who mistreats his wife or partner when no injury is caused were retained, with the inclusion of provisions making it punishable for a wife physically or verbally to mistreat her husband or partner, without causing injury. A man who approaches a woman in an obscene manner or with disrespectful proposals or questions or who follows her or molests her by immodest actions or attitudes becomes punishable by between 10 and 30 days' imprisonment or a fine of between 10 and 30 lempiras (national currency equivalent to $0.50).

Article 6 of the Convention requires States parties to take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women. In this connection, for the first time in Honduras, the current Penal Code, in article 148, provides for imprisonment for a term of between two and five years for a person who habitually or by abusing authority or confidence, or for reasons of profit, promotes or facilitates prostitution or corruption of adult persons of either sex to satisfy the desires of others. This punishment is increased by one third when the passive subject or the offence is a minor. The same punishments apply to those who impede such persons from abandoning prostitution. Article 149 of the said Code also punishes the traffic in women and provides for a term of three to five years of imprisonment for anyone who promotes or facilitates the entry into Honduras of women or of minors of either sex for purposes of prostitution or the departure thereof for the purposes of prostitution abroad.

THE LAW AND WOMEN IN THE NATION'S POLITICAL LIFE

Article 7 of the Convention calls on States parties to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, to ensure, on equal terms with men, the right: to vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies; to participate in public governmental elections; to participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof; to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government; to participate in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country.

The Honduran Constitution has recognized the right of women to participate under equal conditions with men in the political and public life of the country since 25 January 1955, when women became citizens. This was expanded in the Constitutions of 1957, 1965 and 1982, as follows: Article 36: All Hondurans aged over 18 years are citizens. Article 37: The citizen is entitled: 1. To elect and to be elected. 2. To seek public office. 3. To associate in order to establish political parties and to join or leave the same. 4. To other rights acknowledged by this Constitution and the law. Article 39: All Hondurans must be registered with the National Office for the Registration of Persons (State agency responsible for the Civil Register, the issue of identity cards to all Hondurans and the exclusive official preparation of the national electoral list). This agency shall enter all records of the civil status of persons from birth until death and enable them to participate in civil life. Article 40: Duties of the citizen are:

1. To fulfil, defend and ensure fulfilment of the Constitution and the laws.

2. To obtain an identity card.

3. To vote.

4. To carry out the functions of offices subject to popular election, except in the event of excuse or relinquishment for due cause.

5. To perform military service.

6. Other duties established by the Constitution and the laws.

Article 44 states that suffrage is a public right and function. The vote is universal, obligatory, egalitarian, direct, free and secret. Article 45 states that any act designed to prohibit or restrict the citizen's participation in the nation's political life is punishable.

The electoral and political organizations law promulgated in Decree No. 53 of 20 April 1981 (article 6) states that suffrage is a public right and function of the citizen, who exercises it by means of a free, egalitarian, direct and secret vote, its exercise being obligatory within the limits and conditions set out in this law. Article 7 states that all Hondurans aged over 18 years are citizens. This condition gives them the duty and the right to be included in the electoral lists, to obtain an identity card and to exercise suffrage, among other duties and rights established by the Constitution and the law. Article 11 provides that, when the conditions of organization of the election so permit, suffrage is to be extended to Honduran citizens resident outside the national territory. The National Election Tribunal is to regulate this provision by unanimous affirmative vote of its members. Article 9: All Honduran citizens included in the national electoral roll who are not subject to the prohibitions set out in law are

electors. Article 10 specifies which Hondurans may not exercise suffrage: those who have been deprived of their political rights by non-appealable judgement; those who have been imprisoned for serious crimes; those who have been imprisoned, even for less serious offences, and who are currently in detention; those under civil interdiction and senior military officers in the armed forces and security services or police.

With reference to article 8 of the Convention, Honduran women have also had the opportunity to represent their country abroad in the diplomatic corps, acting as ambassadors, first secretaries, advisers and attachés. Between 1973 and 1986, women were in charge of the Honduran embassies in Ecuador, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Guatemala and China.

The proportion of women working in the various embassies is currently as follows: of 185 persons working in Honduran embassies abroad, 79 are women, of whom 35 are officials and 44 are in the support staff category.

NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN

Article 9 of the Convention refers to equality of rights with regard to acquiring, changing or retaining nationality, and the obligation to ensure that neither marriage to an alien nor change of nationality by the husband during marriage will automatically change the nationality of the wife, render her stateless or force upon her the nationality of the husband; it also requires States parties to grant women equal rights with men with respect to the nationality of their children.

Honduras signed the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women in 1934 and ratified it first in its 1936 Political Constitution. The wording used in that Constitution was repeated in subsequent Constitutions. In the 1982 Constitution, article 27 states: "Neither marriage nor its dissolution shall affect the nationality of the spouses or of their children".

WOMEN AND EDUCATION

Article 10 of the Convention refers to education and calls for the adoption of appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in order to ensure them equal rights with men in the field of education. Article 151 of the Constitution of the Republic sets out that education is an essential State function and that national education is non-denominational and based on the essential principles of democracy. Article 171 sets out that education provided officially shall be free of charge and basic education shall also be compulsory and totally supported by the State, which shall establish the necessary measures to make this provision effective. Article 152 indicates that parents shall have a preferential right to select the type of education for their children. Article 154 states that the elimination of illiteracy is a priority task of the State. It is the duty of all Hondurans to co-operate in achieving this end. Article 158 stipulates that no educational centre may offer teaching of a quality below the appropriate level under the law.

The constitutional principles regarding education are set out in the Organic Law on Education, promulgated in Decree 79 of 14 November 1976 and the corresponding regulations, the Adult Literacy Law, the Law on the Teaching Profession and the Law on Teachers' Pensions and Annuities.

In none of these laws is there discrimination against women, either as pupils or teachers. If we examine the items in article 10 of the Convention in relation

to our situation, we can say only that the content of subparagraph (f) is not complied with - not because of neglect on the part of the Government, but rather because of cultural patterns which still prevail in rural areas.

WOMEN AND EMPLOYMENT

Article 11 of the Convention provides that:

(1) States parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of employment in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights, in particular:

(a) The right to work as an inalienable right of all human beings;

(b) The right to the same employment opportunities, including the application of the same criteria for selection in matters of employment;

(c) The right to free choice of profession and employment, the right to promotion, job security and all benefits and conditions of service and the right to receive vocational training and retraining, including apprenticeships, advanced vocational training and recurrent training;

(d) The right to equal remuneration, including benefits, as well as equality of treatment in the evaluation of the quality of work.

(2) In order to prevent discrimination against women on the grounds of marriage or maternity and to ensure their effective right to work, States parties shall take appropriate measures:

(a) To prohibit, subject to the imposition of sanctions, dismissal on the grounds of pregnancy or of maternity leave and discrimination in dismissals on the basis of marital status;

(b) To introduce maternity leave with pay or with comparable social benefits without loss of former employment, seniority or social allowances;

(c) To encourage the provision of the necessary supporting social services to enable parents to combine family obligations with work responsibilities and participation in public life, in particular through promoting the establishment and development of a network of child-care facilities;

(d) To provide special protection to women during pregnancy in types of work proved to be harmful to them.

(3) Protective legislation relating to matters covered in this article shall be reviewed periodically in the light of scientific and technological knowledge and shall be revised, repealed or extended as necessary.

The conditions enjoyed by Honduran women, like those enjoyed by men, in matters of employment and social security are governed by the constitutional principles (1982) which are developed in the Labour Code, Decree 189 of 19 May 1959, the Law governing the Honduran Social Security Institute and the relevant regulations, Decree 140 of 19 May 1959, the Law on the Civil Service and its regulations, Decree 126 of 13 November 1967, the Law governing the Vocational Training Institute, Decree 10 of 28 December 1972 and the Law establishing the Minimum Wage, Decree 103 of 20 January 1971, and Decree 112 of October 1982 on the payment of a seventh day and a thirteenth month. In all these documents women are treated on an equal footing with men. It is in the practical application of the law that there are sometimes inequalities, which are very difficult to overcome because of the economic situation of the country. Women are frequently discriminated against in private enterprises with regard to wage levels; they are content to obtain and retain employment. Nevertheless, the Constitution of the Republic states in article 127:

> "All persons have the right to work, to choose their occupation freely and to abandon it, under equal and satisfactory conditions of work and to protection against unemployment. The law guarantees stability of employment. There is equal pay for equal work, without discrimination, provided that the job, working day and conditions of efficiency and length of service are also equal.
>
> Debts to workers in respect of wages, compensation and other social benefits shall receive special preference in accordance with the law."

In relation to social security, marriage and maternity are constitutionally protected by the State and dismissal on the grounds of pregnancy or maternity leave is prohibited. The Labour Code lays down that women's work must be specially suited to their physical state or conditions and that maternity leave is an obligatory rest period, paid in the same way as work, in the four weeks preceding the birth and the six weeks following the birth, without prejudice to the job and all corresponding rights under the employment contract. The employer must allow a woman worker two rest periods of 30 minutes each during the day to feed her child without any deduction from her wages during the first six months of the child's life.

In order to fulfil this obligation, an employer must provide a breast-feeding room or suitable premises for the child in the vicinity of the place where the woman works. No woman worker may be dismissed on the grounds of pregnancy or breast-feeding.

It is assumed that dismissal has been imposed on the grounds of pregnancy or breast-feeding when it occurs during the period of pregnancy or in the first three months after the birth and, in the event of such dismissal, the woman worker is entitled to payment of compensation equivalent to 60 days' wages, apart from any compensation and benefits which may be due to her under the employment contract, and payment for 10 weeks' paid leave if she has not taken them.

It is forbidden to employ pregnant women on work requiring great effort. It is also forbidden to employ pregnant women on night work lasting more than five hours. Any infringement of these provisions may be reported to the authorities.

Article 12 concerning the provision of health care on a basis of equality between men and women is complied with fully in Honduras and women are guaranteed the necessary attention for themselves and their children during pregnancy, confinement and the post-natal period. The administrative measures of the Ministry of Health include the training of women in relation to individual and community health under agreements reached with women's organizations which provide courses in this area. The mother and child care programmes cover family planning, which has been officially recognized since 1983, as well as breast-feeding and infant care.

Article 13 refers to discrimination in economic life with regard to the right to family benefits, bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit. Article 121 of the Constitution lays down the obligation to nourish, assist and educate children while they are under age and in other cases as set out in law.

The State gives special protection to minors whose parents or guardians are economically unable to provide for their upbringing and education.

Such parents or guardians are to enjoy preferential treatment with regard to public service posts, all other circumstances being equal.

Moreover, the Law on the Civil Service, governing public posts, provides, in article 134 regarding the selection of candidates to occupy public posts, that poor parents with five or more under-age children shall be entitled to two preference points for each under-age child on top of the basic mark.

For the purposes of this provision, the term "poor parent" means a person whose annual income does not exceed 2,000 lempiras and who assumes economic responsibility for the relatives mentioned in the first paragraph.

It is assumed that such persons live at the expense of the poor parent if they live in the same house as the parent and who lack, fully or in part, resources of their own for their upkeep. If these conditions are not fulfilled the preferential point entitlement does not apply.

Decree 251 of 6 April 1978, concerning the allocation of land for the construction of low-cost dwellings, indicating priorities in article 5, gives first place to single women or men acting as heads of families with five or more children aged under 16 years, followed by married couples with five or more children aged under 16 years, either of the preceding categories with a smaller number of children, married couples without dependants and single persons.

Sex has never been a factor in obtaining bank loans if a mortgage is involved. For personal loans, private banks nearly always ask a woman for the guarantee of her husband or of some other person that she is solvent.

In 1983, the Government authorized the establishment of the Banco de la Mujer (Women's Bank) and other institutions to help women by means of the granting of supervised credits.

WOMEN IN THE RURAL SECTOR

Article 14 of the Convention refers to the particular problems faced by rural women and the significant roles which they play in the economic survival of their families, calling on States parties to enable women to: participate in the elaboration and implementation of development planning at all levels; have access to adequate health-care facilities, including information, counselling and services in family planning; benefit directly from social security programmes; obtain all types of training and education, formal and non-formal, including that relating to functional literacy; organize self-help groups and co-operatives; participate in all community activities; have access to agricultural credit and loans, marketing facilities and appropriate technology and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform as well as in land resettlement schemes; enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications.

With regard to the position of rural women we must consider those who live in the reformed sectors, subject to application of the Agrarian Reform Law promulgated

in Decree Law 170 of 30 December 1974, and those who live in sectors unaffected by that reform and who are discriminated against completely. The Law in question provides that a woman who is Honduran by birth may qualify for land if she is aged over 16 years, has family dependants and works the land. In order of priority for the allocation of land she ranks third.

In the event of the death of a person to whom a property has been allocated or if that person should be completely incapable, his wife or partner or any of his children who satisfies the conditions set out in this law shall have a preferential right.

In this last case, the child shall fulfil the family obligations of the dead or incapable person. This rule shall also apply if the dead or incapable person belonged at the time to a co-operative or associative enterprise, in respect to the rights he had therein.

The wording of these articles allows the authorities concerned with the reform (National Agrarian Institute) to consider a woman for land allocation only if she is the head of a family and the children are under age. This situation has generated constant objections on the part of women's organizations.

As far as training and participation in development agencies, such as co-operatives, are concerned, in this sector masculine prejudices prevail and men stubbornly oppose the inclusion therein of wives or partners. None the less, the Rural Women's Education and Training Department uses its courses, seminars and meetings to stress the need for men to include wives or partners in the administrative and production work of co-operatives. This effort to bring about a change in attitudes has the co-operation of the women's organizations.

Article 15 of the Convention calls on States parties to: accord women equality with men before the law, a legal capacity identical to that of men, the same opportunities to exercise that capacity, equal rights to conclude contracts and administer property and equal treatment in all stages of procedure in courts and tribunals; deem null and void any contract or legal instrument which is directed at restricting the legal capacity of women; give women the same right regarding free movement and the freedom to choose their residence and domicile.

CIVIL STATUS OF WOMEN

Women in Honduras have enjoyed equal civil status with men since the current Civil Code was promulgated in 1906. Both women and men come of age at 21 years, at which age both married and unmarried women may administer property, enter into contracts, participate in legal proceedings as plaintiffs or as witnesses, dispose of their property by will and move about freely. Since 1906, a married woman has not required her husband's permission to travel. With regard to the choice of residence and domicile, unmarried women have been free to make this choice since 1906, although it was not until the 1984 Family Code that married women had this freedom because the husband previously fixed the residence and the woman adopted the domicile of the husband as the head of the family.

Article 16 calls on States parties to accord men and women, on a basis of equality: the same right to enter into marriage and the same right freely to choose a spouse and to enter into marriage only with their free and full consent; the same rights and responsibilities during marriage and at its dissolution; the same rights and responsibilities as parents, irrespective of their marital status, in matters relating to their children; the same rights to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have access to the information, education and means to enable them to exercise these rights; the same

rights with regard to guardianship, trusteeship and adoption; the same personal rights as husband and wife, including the right to choose a family name, a profession and an occupation; the same rights in respect of the ownership, acquisition, management, administration, enjoyment and disposition of property, whether free of charge or for a valuable consideration. The betrothal of a child is to have no legal effect and action is to be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage and to make the registration of marriages in an official registry compulsory.

MARRIAGE AND DE FACTO UNIONS

The Government of Honduras has complied with article 16 of the Convention by means of the Family Code (Decree 76-84 of 1984), which came into force in 1985. This Code gave legal recognition to the constitution of the family by civil marriage and by a de facto union and, with regard to minors, adoption under the conditions set out in the Code. Marriage must take place according to the requirements and formalities established by the Code on the basis of legal equality of the spouses. Requirements: civil majority (21 years), full consent (if the person is under age, consent must be given by the parents, guardians or responsible persons and by the competent judge if any of the persons responsible for giving authorization refuses to do so without showing proper cause and the minor is aged less than 18 years).

Who cannot enter into marriage?

Persons not in full possession of their reason when marriage is celebrated. Persons whose previous marriage or de facto union has not been legally dissolved.

Who may not intermarry?

Relatives in direct ascending or descending line. Brothers and sisters. Other collateral relatives up to the fourth degree of consanguinity. An adoptive parent and his or her adoptive child. A guardian and his or her ward. Persons sentenced as the authors or as author and accomplice of the death of the spouse or partner.

The competent judge may grant dispensation regarding the impediment caused by guardianship or that existing between first cousins.

Marriage may not be entered into by minors who have not obtained the consent of the persons required to give consent, or by a woman within 300 days of the dissolution of the previous marriage or de facto union or the declaration that the marriage was null and void - if such declaration was made on the grounds of the husband's impotence, the woman may enter into marriage again without waiting for a specific time and without prior publication of the legal edicts or presentation of the pre-nuptial certificate.

With regard to the rights and duties arising from marriage and on the occasion of its dissolution, the Family Code states that marriage and de facto unions are established on the basis of equality of rights and duties of the two parties, who must live together, show each other due loyalty, consideration and respect and support each other. Both spouses are obliged to care for the family that they have procreated and to co-operate with each other in the education, upbringing and guiding of their children, according to the principles of morality and proper behaviour. To the extent of their capabilities and resources, each must participate in running the home and co-operate in ensuring its good administration. Nevertheless, if one spouse contributes only by working in the

home and caring for the children, the other must contribute alone to the needs of subsistence, without detriment to the duty to co-operate in the said work and care.

Both spouses have the right to carry on their professions and occupations and have the duty to provide mutual co-operation and support therefor, as well as to undertake studies or further training, but in all events are to take care to organize life in the home so that such activities may be co-ordinated with family obligations.

The woman shall always have a prior right to that portion of the husband's wages, salary or income needed to cover food for herself or her under-age children.

The husband shall have this right in cases where the wife is obliged to contribute all or part of the family expenses.

WOMEN'S CHOICE OF NAME

As far as the choice of surname is concerned, the National Census Law (Decree 150, November 1982) merely states that every person has a right to his or her individuality and his or her names as indicated in the Civil Register.

The first surname which must be recorded in the Register of Births is that of the father and the second that of the mother - in the absence of a father, both names of the mother shall be recorded. Consequently, under Honduran law a woman does not take her husband's surname but retains her own surnames.

DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

Marriage is dissolved by the death of one of the spouses or by divorce. Divorce breaks the matrimonial link by a legal ruling, and may be contested or uncontested.

There are eight grounds for a contested divorce:

Obvious and public infidelity by one of the spouses;

Ill-treatment or cruel treatment of one spouse by the other or of the children, making life together insupportable;

An attempt by one spouse on the life of the other or the children;

Manifest and unjustified abandonment by one spouse of the other for a period of more than two years without communication with the other;

Any conduct by one spouse tending to corrupt or pervert the other or the descendants;

Habitual use of heroin-based and narcotic drugs by one spouse when this threatens to cause the ruin of the family or makes continued conjugal relations impossible;

Unjustified refusal on the part of one spouse to fulfil, towards the other or the common children, legal obligations regarding education, upbringing and sustenance;

De facto separation of the spouses for a period of two consecutive years.

Divorce leaves the spouses free to contract new marriages and has the same effects for both spouses. Both in the case of civil marriage and in the case of a de facto union, the spouses may choose one of three financial arrangements:

(a) Separation of property;

(b) Community of property;

(c) Joint ownership of property acquired after marriage. None of these exclude the formation of the family estate. Before entering into marriage, the future spouses may settle all questions relating to present and future property by means of a marriage settlement. If there is no marriage settlement each spouse retains control of and may dispose freely of property that he or she possessed when entering into marriage and property acquired in any way, although this in no way exempts him or her from the obligation to provide for the costs of the home, feeding and educating the children, other costs involved in the marriage and the conservation of the family estate.

The furnishings of the conjugal home belong exclusively to the woman, with the sole exception of the husband's items for personal use.

Administration. The spouses administer the conjugal property and either spouse may perform acts of administration, or one of them may be appointed administrator by joint agreement.

A man aged 18 years and a woman aged 16 years may enter into marriage subject to the authorization required by law.

Minimum age. Marriage contracted by persons who have not reached the ages mentioned shall be validated without the need for express declaration if the contracting parties have not separated within a month after the younger spouse has reached the age of 16 or if the woman has conceived before reaching that age.

Official registration of marriages

The officials who authorize the formalization of civil marriage are obliged to submit certification of the act or public testimony thereof within three days of the celebration of the marriage to the corresponding civil registry so that the marriage may be registered; at the same time, the record of the celebration of marriage, accompanied by all documents forming part thereof, must be deposited in the custody and under the responsibility of the corresponding civil registry.

Guardianship, trusteeship, custody and adoption of children

In these areas men and women have equal rights. The interests of the children are paramount, and the wife is always given preference in relation to custody.

ANNEX I

SUMMARY OF PRODUCTION PROJECTS FOR RURAL WOMEN FINANCED BY THE NATIONAL AGRARIAN INSTITUTE (INA) AND FAO IN 1986
COMAYAGUA REGION

	Name of rural undertaking	Name of women's group	Location		Subregion	Type of organization	Affiliation	Number of members	Type of project	Amount of financing (Lempiras)	Source of financing	Start-up date
			Village	Municipality								
1		Regional FEIHUC		La Esperanza	Intibucá	Regional committee	FEIHUC	18	Farm shop	19 720.54	FAO	
2	San Miguel	Victoria	El Pelón	Yamaranguila	Intibucá	Women's committee	FEIHUC	13		3 548.00	FAO	
3	Unión Independiente	Flores de Mayo	Río Grande	Intibucá	Intibucá	Women's committee	ALCONH	24	Consumer shop	4 078.04	FAO	
4	Cooper. 28 de Junio	28 de Junio	El Zapote	Minas de Oro	Comayagua	Women's committee	INDEPENDENT	10	Consumer shop	5 461.94	FAO	
5		El Naranjo	Yamaran-guila	Minas de Oro	Comayagua	Women's committee	FEIHUC	15	Potato project	3 878.00	FAO	
6	San Blas	San Blas	Jarín		Comayagua	Women's committee	ALCONH	10	Pigs	20 000.00	FAO	22/5/85
7	12 de Enero	12 de Enero		Ajuterique	Comayagua	Women's committee	UNC	13	Maize growing	756.30	FAO	22/5/85
8	El Socorro	El Socorro	El Socorro	Siguatepeque	Comayagua	Women's committee	INDEPENDENT	10	Consumer shop	7 225.22	FAO	
9	El Socorro	El Socorro	El Socorro	Siguatepeque	Comayagua	Women's committee	INDEPENDENT	10	Maize milling	8 688.74	FAO	28/6/85
10	Grupo Los Planes	Las Flores	Planes	Yamaranguila	Intibucá	Women's committee	FEIHUC	15	Consumer shop	4 148.48	FAO	28/6/85
11	Coop. Santa Fé		Zapote	Minas de Oro	Comayagua	Women's committee	FECORAH	9	Pigs	25 000.00	FAO	28/6/85
12		La Cuesta	San Antonio	San Jerónimo	Comayagua	Women's committee	FEIHUC	14	Rabbits	7 590.80	FAO	2/8/85
13	Los Olivos	Los Olivos	Delicia	San José	Comayagua	Women's committee	ALCONH	18	Pigs	25 000.00	FAO	22/5/85
14	Unión y Fuerza	Unión y Fuerza	Concep-ción	La Paz	La Paz	Mixed committee	ANACH	73	Coffee planta-tion	17 733.07	FAO	1/10/85
15	Grupo Licona	Licona No. 2	Liconá	Ajuterique	Comayagua	Women's committee	ANACH	7	Pigs	25 000.00	FAO	22/5/86
16	Nueva Esperanza	Nueva Esperanza	Pascual	Ajuterique	Comayagua	Women's groups	CNTC	9	Water-melons	3 306.98	FAO	13/5/86
17	El Limón	El Limón		San Jerónimo	Comayagua	Women's committee	CNTC	12	Rice	1 047.00	FAO	26/6/86

Source: National Agrarian Institute, Department for Rural Women and Youth.

PRIMARY EDUCATION PER AREA IN 1975

		Percentage	Receiving education	Percentage	Not receiving education	Percentage
Total population	881 281	100%	459 647	51.116%	421 634	47.84%
Female population	437 702	49.67%	207 149	47.33%	230 553	52.67%
Urban female population	261 755	29.70%	163 266	62.37%	98 489	37.63%
Rural female population	619 526	70.29%	296 381	47.14%	323 145	32.16%

SECONDARY EDUCATION

	1975	Receiving education	Percentage	1983	Receiving education	Percentage
Total population	318 610	56 195	17.64%	444 749	153 642	34.55%
Female population	158 068	28 335	17.92%	220 884	65 157	29.50%
Urban female population	58 463	21 690	37.10%	90 151	48 320	53.59%
Rural female population	99 605	6 645	6.67%	130 693	16 837	12.88%

PRIMARY EDUCATION PER AREA IN 1983

		Percentage	Receiving education	Percentage
Total population	1 160 655		704 612	60.71%
Female population	579 099	49.89%	350 731	60.56%
Urban female population	197 793	50.42%	143 389	72.49%
Rural female population	381 306	49.58%	207 342	54.38%

ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION

	1975 -----	Percentage	1985 -----	Percentage	Comparison with 1975 Increase -	Percentage	Decrease -	Percentage
Total:	913 363		1 225 590		312 227	34.18%		
Women:	136 371	14.93%	184 505	15.05%	48 134	35.29%		

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION EMPLOYEES

	1975 -----	Percentage	1985 -----	Percentage	Decrease ------	Percentage
Total:	32 927	100%	30 000	100%		
Women:	14 313	43.46%	10 000	33.33%	4 313	30%
Men:	18 614	56.54%	20 000	66.67%		

Number of women voters in 1985	932 372
Women among: political governors	3
Mayors	17
Aldermen	87
Deputies	9 plus 13 alternates
SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE	
Judge in Labour Appeals Court	1
Appeals Court	1
Judge in Rents Tribunal	1
Judge in Juvenile Court	1
Judges with legal qualifications	7
Justices of the peace	2
JUDICIAL POWER	
EXECUTIVE POWER	
Women Secretaries of State	1
Women Deputy Ministers	1

AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES RECEIVED BY MEN AND WOMEN IN 1975 AND 1985
IN TEGUCIGALPA

Occupation	1975 Average weekly wage			1985 Average wage		
	For men	For women	Amount by which the average is less for women	For men	For women	Amount by which the average is less for women
Administrator	L. 325.50	L. 106.11	L. 219.39	L. 502.40	L. 289.50	L. 212.90
Bookkeeper	L. 158.86	L. 59.62	L. 99.24	L. 188.75	L. 91.00	L. 97.75
Bookkeeping assistant	L. 78.29	L. 59.20	L. 19.09	L. 82.20	L. 67.30	L. 14.90
Sales agent*	L. 90.39	L. 139.21	L.	L. 150.45	L. 215.40	L.
Auditor	L. 202.72	L. 121.85	L. 80.87	L. 240.35	L. 166.00	L. 74.35
Porter	L. 33.39	L. 32.70	L. 0.69	L. 38.75	L. 38.00	L. 0.75
Cook	L. 63.12	L. 26.60	L. 36.52	L. 87.50	L. 69.40	L. 18.10
Waiter	L. 26.22	L. 23.21	L. 3.01	L. 31.70	L. 28.65	L. 3.05
Cashier	L. 104.23	L. 82.73	L. 21.50	L. 115.60	L. 104.70	L. 10.90
Draughtsman	L. 80.40	L. 62.52	L. 17.88	L. 89.80	L. 75.40	L. 14.40
Manager	L. 133.23	L. 32.46	L. 0.77	L. 185.50	L. 184.90	L. 0.60
Director	L. 505.30	L. 223.78	L. 281.52	L. 592.40	L. 388.70	L. 203.70
Machine operator	L. 62.24	L. 53.34	L. 8.90	L. 69.65	L. 59.80	L. 9.85
Office worker	L. 98.32	L. 72.20	L. 26.12	L. 105.25	L. 94.35	L. 10.90
Weaver	L. 31.85	L. 31.80	L. 0.05	L. 36.50	L. 36.05	L. 0.45

* Women earn better as sales agents because they do more work and work more constantly, and therefore receive more and better commissions.

ANNEX 2

CO-OPERATIVE PROJECTS DEALT WITH BY THE UNIT FOR TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION WITH RURAL WOMEN AND YOUTH OF THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN 1986

Region	Community	Project	Amount of the project (Lempiras)	Source of financing
South	La Cruz (Pavana)	Bee-keeping	500.00	Fondo de Consumo Familiar
	Jicaral (Linaca)	Consumer shop	500.00	Fondo de Consumo Familiar
	Azacualpa (San Bernardo)	Sesame seed	308.00	Fondo de Consumo Familiar
West	El Pital (La Entrada, Copán)	Bee-keeping	2 244.00	PRODERO
	Quita Sueño (La Entrada, Copán)	Maize growing	3 380.00	PRODERO
	Quita Sueño (La Entrada, Copán)	Poultry	415.00	Mennonites
	Corquín (Copán)	Preco-operative improvement	23 500.00	PRODERO
	Concepción (Ocotepeque)	Dwellings	11 981.00	PRODERO
	El Porvenir (Ocotepeque)	Horticulture	6 586.00	UNICEF
	El Porvenir (Ocotepeque)	Basic cereals	4 045.00	UNICEF
	Laguna del Pedernal (Leparín, Lempira)	Dwelling improvement	2 455.00	PRODERO
	San Manuel (Lempira)	Poultry	1 210.00	PRODERO
	San Manuel (Lempira)	Dwelling improvement	583.00	PRODERO
	Buena Vista (Trinidad de Copán)	Dwelling improvement	1 960.00	PRODERO
	Candelaria (Trinidad de Copán)	Poultry	1 222.00	PRODERO
	Naranjito (Santa Bárbara)	Breadmaking	1 024.00	PRODERO
	La Zumbadora (Florida, Copán)	Maize and fruit	256.45	PRODERO
	La Zumbadora (Florida, Copán)	Pigs	350.00	PRODERO
	La Zumbadora (Florida, Copán)	Dwelling improvement	216.00	PRODERO
	La Zumbadora (Florida, Copán)	Production	532.00	PRODERO

SUMMARY OF PRODUCTION PROJECTS FOR RURAL WOMEN FINANCED BY THE NATIONAL AGRARIAN INSTITUTE (INA) AND FAO IN 1986
DANLI REGION

No.	Name of group	Location		Subregion	Affiliation	Number of members	Type of project	Amount of financing (Lempiras)
		Village	Municipality					
1	Nuevo Ambiente	Argelia	Danlí	El Paraíso	FEHMUC	12	Maize milling	6 252.40
2	Nuevo Ambiente	Argelia	Danlí	El Paraíso	FEHMUC	12	Maize growing	1 587.60
3	Santa Fe	El Tablón	Danlí	El Paraíso	INDEPENDENT	6	Consumer shop	6 559.40
4	Flores de Oriente	Chichicaste	Danlí	El Paraíso	ANACH-ANAMUC	15	Farm shop	9 104.97
5	Nuevo Ambiente		Danlí	El Paraíso	FEHMUC	12	Plot, 4 mz,* for growing kidney beans	1 453.20
6	Nueva Suyapa	Argelia	Danlí	El Paraíso	INDEPENDENT	19	Plot, 4 mz,* for growing kidney beans	1 453.20
7	Nueva Suyapa		Danlí	El Paraíso	INDEPENDENT	19	Plot, 4 mz,* for growing maize	1 587.60
8	Aguas Preciosas		Danlí	El Paraíso	ANAMUC	16	Marketing	6 870.00
9	Iván Betancourth	Plan de Turcios Abajo	Danlí	El Paraíso	UNC	8	Consumer shop	3 336.44

Source: National Agrarian Institute, Department for Rural Women and Youth.

* Translator's note: 4 manzanas or about 3 hectares.

CO-OPERATIVE PROJECTS DEALT WITH BY THE UNIT FOR TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION WITH RURAL WOMEN AND YOUTH OF THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN 1986

Region	Community	Project	Amount of the project (Lempiras)	Source of financing
South-East	El Pescadero (Araulí, Danlí)	Fruit	5 000.00	Fondo de Consumo Familiar
	El Coyolar (Jutiapa)	Rabbits	9 000.00	AID-SAPLAN
	Oculí (El Chichicaste)	Fruit-tree nursery	5 000.00	Fondo de Consumo Familiar
Centre-West	La Puzunca (Juticalpa)	Rabbits	1 100.00	UN
	Talanquera (Juticalpa)	Rabbits	1 100.00	UN
Atlantic Coast (Telas)	Las Quebradas (Tela)	Kidney beans	15 145.00	AHDEJUMUR
	Las Quebradas (Tela)	Bee-keeping	10 789.00	AHDEJUMUR
	Paguales (La Masica)	Rice	3 625.00	AHDEJUMUR
	Paguales (La Masica)	Rice	5 808.00	AHDEJUMUR
	Agua Caliente (La Masica)	Rice	3 824.50	AHDEJUMUR
	El Paraíso (La Ceiba)	Rice	13 871.19	AHDEJUMUR
	Toncontín (La Ceiba)	Rice	13 501.22	AHDEJUMUR
	Yaruca (El Progreso)	Bee-keeping	21 108.00	Government - Canada
Santa Bárbara	Camalote (Quimistán)	Dwelling improvement	-	PRODESBA
	Las Varas (Azacualpa)	Aquaculture (fish)	2 305.00	PRODESBA
	Posas Verde (Azacualpa)	Poultry	2 305.00	PRODESBA
	Arada	Crafts, farming	1 313.00	PRODESBA

Source: Ministry of Natural Resources, Unit for Technical Co-operation with Rural Women and Youth.

SUMMARY OF PRODUCTION PROJECTS FOR RURAL WOMEN FINANCED BY THE NATIONAL AGRARIAN INSTITUTE (INA) AND FAO IN 1986
OLANCHO REGION

	Name of rural undertaking	Name of women's group	Location		Sub-region	Type of organization	Affiliation	Number of members		Type of project	Amount of financing (Lempiras)	Source of financing	Dates	
			Village	Municipality				Start	Current				Start	Finish
1	San Nicolás 13	San Nicolás 13		Juticalpa	Olancho	Women's group	FEHMUC	12	12	Bee-keeping	10 019.46	FAO	10/8/84	30/6/86
2	Nuevos Horizontes	Nuevos Horizontes	Santa Cruz	Juticalpa	Olancho	Women's group	FEHMUC	15	6	Consumer shop	3 639.62	FAO	10/1/84	30/7/86
3	Nueva Esperanza	Nueva Esperanza	Arímis	Juticalpa	Olancho	Women's group	FEHMUC	15	17	Tabasco chilli	9 451.75	FAO	17/5/84	30/4/85
4	Brisas del Limón	Brisas del Limón	San Marcos de Jutiquile	Juticalpa	Olancho	Women's group	ANAMUC	10	10	Rice, maize	3 006.72	FAO	14/6/85	14/2/86
5	Cinco Estrellas	San Marcos	Jutiquile	Juticalpa	Olancho	Women's group	FEHMUC	12	12	Tabasco chilli	4 165.70	FAO	23/6/84	30/7/86
6	La Unión	La Unión	Arímis	Juticalpa	Olancho	Women's group	ANAMUC	12		Consumer shop	4 509.25	FAO	24/1/84	30/7/86
7	Tempiscapa	Santa María Tempiscapa	Tempiscapa	Juticalpa	Olancho	Women's group	ANACH	9	8	Vegetables	2 467.08	FAO	1984	30/11/84
8	Tempiscapa	Santa María Tempiscapa	Tempiscapa	Juticalpa	Olancho	Women's group	ANACH	9	8	Bee-keeping	9 951.00	FAO	22/6/84	30/6/86
9	Tempiscapa	Santa María Tempiscapa	Tempiscapa	Juticalpa	Olancho	Men's group	ANACH	14	10	Fruit	6 652.51	FAO	7/5/84	20/6/87
10	Buena Fé	Buena Fé	Col. Agrícola	Catacamas	Olancho	Mixed group	ANACH	8	6	Consumer shop	4 671.00	FAO	26/6/85	26/6/87
11	María Elena Bolívar	Dos Ríos	Dos Ríos	San Esteban	Olancho	Women's group	FEHMUC	16	16	Consumer shop	2 500.00	FAO	29/10/85	
12	Alianza del Espino	Alianza del Espino	El Espino	Catacamas	Olancho	Partnership	UNC	12	16	Pigs	19 934.70	FAO	22/2/85	
13	Tres Marías	San Marcos	San Marcos	Juticalpa	Olancho	Women's group	ANACH	12	10	Pigs	19 702.52	FAO	9/4/85	30/11/89
14	Fco. Argueta	Fco. Argueta	Arímis	Juticalpa	Olancho	Women's group	ANAMUC	17	16	Pigs	19 532.44	FAO	15/5/85	30/11/89
15	Brisas del Oriente	Oriente	Zopilotepe	Juticalpa	Olancho	Women's group	FEHMUC	13	17	Small-scale breadmaking	19 098.41	FAO	13/12/83	30/12/86
16	Brisas de Olancho	Olancho	Pumuere	Juticalpa	Olancho	Women's group	FEHMUC	10	12	Maize	1 277.32	FAO	18/6/84	28/2/85
17	Flores de Mayo		San Marcos	Juticalpa	Olancho	Women's group	Independent	12	16	Rice	1 173.65	FAO	4/7/84	28/2/85
18	Santa Fé		Lepaguere	Juticalpa	Olancho	Women's group	Independent	7	7	Meat	2 700.00	FAO	26/6/86	26/6/87
19	Guayabito 13		Primone	Juticalpa	Olancho	Women's group	ANACH	14	11	Consumer shop	3 069.61	FAO	17/10/84	30/4/87
20	Montenuela		Primone	Juticalpa	Olancho	Partnership	UNC	14		Livestock	17 671.65	FAO		

Source: National Agrarian Institute, Department for Rural Women and Youth.

UNITED
NATIONS

CEDAW

Convention on the Elimination
of All Forms of Discrimination
against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women (CEDAW)

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES
UNDER ARTICLE 18 OF THE CONVENTION

Second periodic reports of States parties

Addendum

MEXICO

V.88 22084 1378e

INTRODUCTION

The Government of Mexico, as a State party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, hereby submits, in accordance with article 18 of the Convention, its report for the period 1983-1986, with the understanding that it includes information corresponding to 1987.

This report takes due account of the comments and views expressed by the experts of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its second session with reference to the initial report of Mexico (CEDAW/C/5/Add.2).

In the light of the "General guidelines regarding the form and contents of reports", 1/ in the document we are submitting now part I refers only to those aspects not covered in the initial report, while part II provides specific information in relation to each provision of the Convention.

1/ Document CEDAW/C/7.

PART I

1. General aspects 2/

In its initial report, the Government of Mexico gave a detailed description of the constitutional provisions and the relevant norms of Mexican legislation that guarantee equality of rights and preclude discrimination against women in all areas of national life.

Article 4 of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States establishes that "men and women are equal before the law". The principle of legal equality is also constitutionally established with regard to nationality (article 30), civil and political capacity (articles 34 and 35) and labour (article 123).

The principle of equality of men and women is fully established in the country's secondary legislation, essentially the General Law on Population, the Law on Nationality and Naturalization, the Federal Labour Law, the Federal Law Governing Workers in the Service of the State, the Commercial Code, the Civil Code for the Federal District with regard to Ordinary Matters and for the whole Republic with regard to Federal Matters, and the Code of Civil Procedure for the Federal District.

Moreover, with reference to paragraph 3(e) of the "General guidelines", article 133 of the Political Constitution lays down that international agreements signed by the President of the Republic with the approval of the Senate shall be, together with the Mexican Constitution and laws promulgated by the Federal Congress, the supreme law of the whole Union, so that through incorporation in national legislation the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women is directly applicable in Mexico.

It must be stressed that, in conformity with this article of the Constitution, the judges of each state of the Republic are bound by the provisions of the Convention to which this report relates, even in the event of conflict with contrary provisions which may exist in local laws or constitutions.

Consequently, Mexican legislation possesses the necessary provisions to eliminate and prevent practices resulting in any manner from discrimination based on sex and infringing the human rights of women in Mexico.

Mexican society has undergone profound changes in this century. The work done by the régime that emerged from the Revolution initiated in 1910 has affected the broadest sectors of the population: in 1930 the life expectancy of the average Mexican was 37 years, whereas it is currently 66 years; illiteracy has been reduced from 50 per cent to 9 per cent in the same period; social security coverage has reached nearly half the total population, and primary health services are now available to almost the entire population.

Similarly, the Mexican economy has been transformed through fundamental policies of which noteworthy elements have been agrarian reform, industrial development and the expansion of the infrastructure, communications and urban services.

This is the framework for the policies of the Mexican State in favour of the authentic protection of the rights of women in Mexico. Various constitutional reforms between 1934 and 1974 ensure full legal equality between men and women.

2/ Document CEDAW/C/7, paragraph 3(a), (b) and (e).

Alongside this, greater attention has been paid to advancing the social status of women in development programmes, in order to increase participation by women in all activities of national life and, in particular, to permit their access to education and health services, thereby generating the necessary conditions for their incorporation in the structured sector of the economy, formal employment and social security.

Since the proclamation by the United Nations of the International Women's Year in 1975, Mexican efforts in this area have been linked with the measures adopted by the international community at the world conferences held at Mexico City, Copennagen and Nairobi, reflecting a clear awareness of the interaction between the problems affecting women, development problems and the problems of society as a whole, and the intention to bring about a permanent change in the traditional concept of the roles of men and women in society and in the family since the underestimation of the value of women's activities in all fields diminishes the collective effort.

2. National programme to promote and ensure the full development and advancement of women 3/

The policies being implemented by the Government of Mexico to enhance the condition of women, based on national experience and enriched by the significant contribution of the United Nations Decade for Women, have in recent years been embodied in the National Programme of Action for the Integration of Women in Development. This Programme, of which a copy is attached for use by the members of the Committee (annex I), proposes lines of action for different areas of community life and promotes the direct and active participation of Mexican women therein.

3/ Document CEDAW/C/7, section 3(d).

PART II 4/

1. Institutional measures

The objectives and priorities of the National Population Council, the agency of the Federal Government responsible for promoting the integration of women in the economic and social activity of the country, include the improvement of the living conditions of women in Mexico. With this in mind, the Council conducted a national survey in the first half of 1983 to update information on the situation of women and to examine progress made in programmes carried out in this field up to 1983, as well as to obtain proposals for policies to be implemented by the Government of the Republic. The population survey led to a draft Programme of Action whose outlines were approved in August 1983.

The Programme of Action proposes lines of policy and is also the basis for the specific programmes of the various agencies of the Government of the Republic, at municipal, state and federal level. The objectives of the National Programme of Action for the Integration of Women in Development are included in the 1983-1988 National Development Plan, which, through the application of programmes for broad social participation, has tackled the most severe economic crisis suffered by the country in its modern history.

To promote the implementation of the National Programme of Action, the National Commission for Women was set up as the mechanism to co-ordinate and evaluate the relevant sectoral programmes and activities.

The National Commission for Women is made up of representatives of the three branches of government of the Union, the governments of the states of the Republic, and the various social organizations and centres of higher education. Each of the women representatives is also the co-ordinator of the commission for women within the organization, institution, State Secretariat or department of the Federal Government that she represents.

There are also commissions for women in the Senate and Chamber of Deputies, as well as in the organs of the judiciary of the Federation.

Likewise, commissions have been set up in the states of the Republic, in numerous municipalities and in the social organizations of the states.

The National Commission for Women, as the government agency responsible for co-ordinating the National Programme of Action, formulated an Operational Programme for the three-year period 1986-1988, the aim of its work and initiatives being to enhance the participation of Mexican women in political, economic and cultural activities.

The Operational Programme (annex II) was developed with due reference to the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (during the Period from 1986 to the Year 2000) and sets out specific measures to implement the aforesaid National Programme of Action, defining priorities for the government departments, in conjunction with social organizations and academic institutions.

4/ Document CEDAW/C/7, paragraph 4.

2. Statistical information

The Government of Mexico has pleasure in providing below the information requested by the Committee on the position of women in Mexico in various areas of social life.

A. Demographic aspects

Table 1

Total population
(thousands)

Year	Total	Males	Females
1940	19 653.5	9 695.7	9 957.7
1950	25 791.0	12 696.9	13 094.0
1960	34 923.1	17 415.3	17 507.8
1970	48 225.2	24 065.6	24 159.6
1980	69 346.9	34 580.0	34 766.9
1984	76 891.8	38 449.7	38 342.0

Table 2

Female population - rural and urban
(thousands)

Year	Female population rural a/	Female population urban
1960	8 338	9 030
1970	9 703	14 369
1980	11 714	23 034

a/ Living in communities of less than 2,500 people.

Table 3

Population density and growth rate, 1980

Growth rate	2.7%	per annum
Density	34.4	inhabitants/km^2

Table 4

Percentage distribution of the population by age group, 1980

Age group	Total	Males	Females
Total	100	100	100
0-4	16.1	16.5	15.8
5-9	15.3	15.6	15.0
10-14	13.4	13.6	13.2
15-19	11.1	11.0	11.3
20-24	8.9	8.6	9.1
25-29	6.9	6.8	7.0
30-34	5.6	5.5	5.7
35-39	4.9	4.7	4.9
40-44	4.1	4.1	4.2
45-49	3.4	3.3	3.4
50-54	2.7	2.7	2.8
55-59	2.2	2.2	2.1
60-64	1.6	1.6	1.6
65 and over	3.8	3.8	3.9

Table 5

Life expectancy for women

Year	Expectancy (years)
1940	42.50
1950	51.04
1960	60.32
1970	63.95
1980	67.00

The Government of Mexico carried out a National Demographic Survey in February and March 1982 with the main aim of measuring fertility levels and contraception.

The Survey used a stratified sample with two levels: households and women aged between 15 and 49 years residing in the home. The number of households visited was of the order of 20,000 and the women interviewed numbered 10,205.

The data collected are representative of almost 17 million Mexican women and are set out below for the information of the Committee, beginning with the data provided by the Survey regarding the general characteristics of the women interviewed.

Table 6

Percentage distribution of all women by age group and size of the locality of residence

Age	Total	Size of the locality of residence: Less than 20,000 people	More than 20,000 people a/	Metropolitan areas b/
15-19	100	49.8	23.3	26.9
20-24	100	43.2	26.0	30.8
25-29	100	43.0	26.4	30.6
30-34	100	48.6	23.3	28.0
35-39	100	51.3	24.2	24.5
40-44	100	50.0	24.0	26.0
45-49	100	51.5	22.9	25.5
Total	100	47.7	24.4	27.9

a/ Excluding the metropolitan areas of Mexico City, Guadalajara and Monterrey.

b/ Metropolitan areas of Mexico City, Guadalajara and Monterrey.

Table 7

Percentage breakdown of civil status of women aged between 15 and 49 years

Civil status	1982
Married	51.5
Free union	9.0
Widowed	2.7
Divorced or separated	4.2
Unmarried	32.5
Total	100.0

Table 8

Percentage distribution of all women by age group and schooling

Age	Total	Schooling: Did not attend school	Incomplete primary schooling	Complete primary schooling	Secondary schooling	College Preparatory or more	Technical education
15-19	100.0	3.3	22.4	19.7	29.7	14.3	10.5
20-24	100.0	4.8	24.8	21.1	16.4	15.4	17.5
25-29	100.0	8.8	30.2	22.8	12.5	10.4	15.2
30-34	100.0	11.7	39.7	19.9	8.0	7.7	12.4
35-39	100.0	19.0	41.7	18.0	6.3	5.1	10.0
40-44	100.0	26.6	40.2	15.9	3.9	3.4	10.0
45-49	100.0	30.5	43.9	12.1	3.4	3.0	7.1
Total	100.0	11.5	31.8	19.4	14.7	10.1	12.5

Table 9

Percentage distribution of all women by schooling, depending on size of the locality of residence

Size of the locality of residence	Total	Schooling					
		Did not attend school	Incomplete primary schooling	Complete primary schooling	Secondary schooling	College preparatory or more	Technical education
Less than 20,000 people	100	17.6	42.6	17.3	11.1	5.9	5.6
More than 20,000 people	100	7.1	25.0	21.6	18.1	11.2	17.0
Metropolitan areas	100	5.0	19.3	20.9	18.1	16.5	20.2

Table 10

Proportion of women who work by age group

Age	Proportion of women who work a/
15-19	0.16
20-24	0.29
25-29	0.23
30-34	0.22
35-39	0.22
40-44	0.18
45-49	0.21
Total	0.22

a/ In the sense that they have formal employment from which they obtain an income.

The proportion of women who work in localities of less than 20,000 people is 15 per cent, in localities of more than 20,000 people it is 25 per cent and in the metropolitan zones of Mexico City, Guadalajara and Monterrey it is 30 per cent.

Table 11

Average number of live-born children by age group, 1982

Age	Average number of live-born children
15-19	0.18
20-24	1.10
25-29	2.47
30-34	3.84
35-39	5.31
40-44	5.87
45-49	6.37
Total	2.76

The average number of live-born children of women who have not attended school is 5.63, and the number for women with incomplete (basic) primary education is 3.97.

In the case of women with complete (basic) primary education, the average number of live-born children is 2.30, compared with 1.10 for women with secondary education.

The average number of live-born children of women residing in communities of less than 20,000 people is 3.22, whereas the average for women residing in communities of more than 20,000 inhabitants is 2.53, compared with 2.18 in the metropolitan areas of Mexico City, Guadalajara and Monterrey.

The average number of live-born children of women who work is 1.74, whereas the average for women who do not work (in the sense that they do not have a formal job from which they obtain an income) is 3.04.

Table 12

Proportion of women who have used contraceptive methods and proportion of users of efficient contraceptive methods by age group

Age	Proportion of women: Who have used contraceptive methods	Using efficient contraceptive methods a/
15-19	0.07	0.03
20-24	0.36	0.24
25-29	0.59	0.40
30-34	0.63	0.46
35-39	0.61	0.41
40-44	0.43	0.29
45-49	0.27	0.14
Total	0.39	0.26

a/ Women who state that they themselves or their husbands have been sterilized or who have been using contraceptive pills, injections, condoms or intra-uterine devices.

Table 13

Proportion of women users of efficient contraceptive methods out of all married women and women living in free unions, by level of schooling

	Women users of efficient contraceptive methods
Total	0.40
Schooling	Years of schooling
Did not attend school	0
Incomplete primary schooling	Between 1 and 5
Complete primary schooling	6
Secondary schooling	Between 7 and 9
Technical education	Between 10 and 12
Baccalaureate or vocational training	12 or more
	0.22
	0.38
	0.45
	0.47
	0.56
	0.53

Table 14

Proportion of women users of efficient contraceptive measures out of all married women and women living in free unions, by size of the locality of residence

	Women users of efficient contraceptive methods
Total	0.40
Size of the locality of residence	
Less than 20,000 people	0.32
More than 20,000 people	0.48
Metropolitan areas of Mexico City, Guadalajara and Monterrey	0.52

Table 15

Proportion of women users of efficient contraceptive methods out of all married women and women living in free unions, by number of live-born children

	Women users of efficient contraceptive methods
Total	0.40
Number of live-born children:	
0	0.06
1 or 2	0.41
3	0.48
4 or 5	0.53
6 or more	0.36

Mexico's population policy is part of the general development strategy for the country and is based on a humanist approach which respects the freedom of the individual and the decisions of the family. The Government of Mexico is conscious that demographic policy should take social needs into account and that the target should be to enhance the overall welfare of the family and the community.

The results of the National Demographic Survey indicate the prevailing patterns in Mexico in recent years: as the level of schooling of Mexican women has risen, there has been an increase in their opportunities for finding jobs and, in addition, for a considerable number of women, incorporation in urban life - factors which have caused the average number of live-born children to decrease.

In the past, a mere 40 or 50 years ago, the extended family had its own social and economic rationale, but also reflected the scarcity of information on sex education and family planning, the strength of tradition and the limited nature of health and social security services.

The nuclear family predominates today and sex education forms part of general education. There have been large-scale information campaigns on family planning and there are health and social security services for the majority of the population.

3. Updated information on the application of the articles of the Convention 5/

Article 5

In order to promote the full application of article 5 of the Convention and therefore to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, Mexico has developed and undertaken information and orientation campaigns using the mass media (radio and television) on:

(i) The importance of the role of the woman as mother;

(ii) The benefits for the woman of continuing her studies or expanding studies already undertaken;

(iii) The function of the family as the primary focus of society and the significance of each of its components: father, sons, daughters, grandparents, uncles and aunts, etc.;

(iv) The important social and economic contribution of the housewife, whether she belongs to the middle classes or to the lower-income groups, and the resultant need to recognize the joint responsibility of all family members for housework.

Article 7

The participation of women in the political life of the country on an equal basis with men is guaranteed by article 4 of the Political Constitution of the Republic, with the individual guarantee of equality of men and women before the law.

The enjoyment and exercise of political rights are enshrined in article 34 of the Constitution, which sets out that "men and women who, having the status of Mexicans, ..." have reached the age of 18 years are "citizens of the Republic".

5/ Document CEDAW/C/7, paragraph 4. With reference to articles 6, 9, 13, 15 and 16 of the Convention, the Government of Mexico wishes to reiterate the information given to the Committee in its initial report.

Article 35 of the Constitution defines the prerogatives of the citizen and lays down that Mexican citizens (men and women) are eligible to take part in the formation and functioning of public institutions, i.e. they have the political capacity to vote and be elected, to associate together with a view to constituting parties and considering political matters and to hold any public office.

Even though the initial report of the Government of Mexico, submitted in 1982, already included a broad explanation of the legal bases of the political equality of women, that is to say the legal framework for their participation in the nation's political life, it is important to point out that women's participation in politics is conditioned by their level of political awareness and by cultural stereotypes (which persist in most countries with a colonial past) which tend, in a generalized way, to identify the function of women more closely with activities of a private and family nature than with activities of a public and collective nature.

The participation of the political parties is thus a matter of prime importance, since their capacity for social mobilization and dissemination of ideologies and programmatic proposals has enabled them to make a favourable contribution to promoting political activity by women.

Women in political parties

In Mexico the dynamics of the political parties themselves in recent years has led to the incorporation of a greater number of women at various levels of party leadership. A woman candidate was even put forward for election to the office of President of the Republic for the period 1982-1988.

In organizational terms, however, several political parties limit the participation of women to commissions or secretariats concerned with female advancement or women's organizations, which is considered by some currents of feminist opinion as restricting the intervention of women in decisions affecting the party as a whole.

In 1983 and 1984, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) made important changes to its basic documents as far as women are concerned. It established the National Council for the Participation of Women, through which PRI would "fight for the enforcement of the principle of equality between men and women before the law and the acceleration of the full incorporation of the female population in party tasks and efforts aimed at national development". In this spirit, the party elected a woman as General Secretary of its National Executive Committee, an office which she held until early 1987.

The Council for the Integration of Women of PRI organizes women's meetings in the farming, worker and popular sectors which have provided the opportunity for the formulation of demands, aspirations, claims and criticisms, these constituting the primary source for the elaboration of proposals by women to the leadership of the Party for inclusion in the basic electoral platform.

National development, accelerated urbanization, economic modernization and far-reaching changes in the cultural and educational life of Mexico have been progressively creating the objective conditions and the requirements for increasing participation by women in political activities. Nevertheless, this participation has been gaining ground only gradually and is still hindered by certain traditional conceptions which, however, are being combated by the party and social organizations.

Faced with these obstacles, which merely limit the potential of Mexican society to make further progress in building a stronger and more productive and therefore more democratic, independent and sovereign nation, the political parties

in general have attempted to give greater impetus to the participation of women in order to achieve the full daily exercise of their equal rights as enshrined in the Political Constitution in force in Mexico.

The updated Electoral Roll includes a total of 35,602,138 citizens (18,023,783 women and 17,578,355 men). This means that the total number of citizens eligible to vote in the next federal elections is made up of 51 per cent women and 49 per cent men.

In the elections to form the present legislature of the Chamber of Deputies of the Congress of the Union in July 1985, there were 248 women candidates to serve as federal deputies for the nine political parties which put forward candidates, with the following breakdown by party:

Party	Number of women
Workers' Revolutionary Party (PRT)	53
Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI)	31
Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution (PARM)	27
Socialist People's Party (PPS)	26
Workers' Socialist Party (PST)	25
Mexican Democratic Party (PDM)	24
Mexican Workers' Party (PMT)	23
National Action Party (PAN)	21
Unified Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM)	18
Total	248

As far as participation by women in the three branches of government of the Union is concerned, the following should be noted:

Federal executive

There are 91 women in leadership positions, including two Under-Secretaries and one Senior Official, while the remainder are Directors-General, Unit Chiefs in the Federal Government and Political Delegates in the Department of the Federal District. This does not include the women working in the Mexican Foreign Service because, although they also constitute higher-level officials of the Executive, reference will be made to them in the information relating to article 8 of the Convention.

Legislative branch

In the Congress of the Union there is a total of 36 women federal deputies and six women senators.

Judiciary

The Supreme Court of Justice of the nation is made up of 21 judges, four of them being women. In the courts and tribunals, there are 367 judicial personnel, of whom 129 are women, including the President of the Higher Court of Justice (Tribunal Superior de Justicia).

Table 16

Judicial personnel, by sex

	Total	Men	%	Women	%
Judges of higher courts (magistrados)	39	25	64	14	36
Judges of lower courts (jueces)	222	141	64	81	36
• Of civil courts	47	26	55	21	45
• Of family courts	40	29	73	11	27
• For rents and leases	30	21	70	9	30
• Of criminal courts	66	40	61	26	39
• For bankruptcy cases	3	2	67	1	33
• Of both civil and criminal courts of first instance	1	1	100	-	-
• Justices of the Peace	35	22	63	13	37
Court secretaries (secretarios de acuerdos)	106	72	68	34	32
Higher courts (salas)	12	8	67	4	33
Lower courts (juzgados) a/	94	64	68	30	32
• Civil	28	20	71	8	29
• Criminal	31	22	71	9	29
• For rents and leases	13	10	77	23	23
• Family	22	12	55	10	45
TOTAL	367	238	65	129	35

a/ As at 1 August 1987.

In the governments of the states of the Republic and the municipalities throughout the country, there is significant participation by women. An example of this is the fact that, in 1980, a woman Governor was elected in the State of Colima and, in 1986, another woman was elected as Governor of the State of Tlaxcala. There are also women at the level of secretary-general or secretary (in state governments) responsible for tourism, finance, etc. In 1987 the State of Guerrero established a Secretariat for the Promotion of Women.

The social demands of women who are active in politics are varied. The reasons for the diversity lie in their class background, the characteristics of the workplace, the development of their communities, their particular regional and cultural features and the absence or otherwise of public services.

For instance, indigenous women seek support to overcome poverty and also ask for full respect for their culture and distinctive character. Peasant women want acknowledgement of their right to the land and the continued provision of credit and training to promote production units. Women manual workers and working women in

general call for compliance with the constitutional precept "equal pay for equal work" and are constantly urging the provision of services to enable them to discharge their responsibilities as workers and as mothers. Women from middle-income groups, including housewives, seek public services, decent housing and jobs. They also want to play an increasing part in public affairs and continue to fight against conceptions which impair their dignity and value as human beings.

While reiterating their fundamental role as the focus of the Mexican family and in the transmission of life, culture and essential values, they all call for a continuation of the struggle against inflation which is having such an impact on the family budget, and for sustained development in the field of justice, the strengthening of democracy and the elimination of all vestiges of discrimination.

Article 8

Participation of women in international relations

The legal basis for equality in the participation of men and women in the conduct of international relations was fully explained in the initial report of Mexico.

Mexican women are free to enter the Mexican Foreign Service and are legally entitled to be considered for promotion or advancement under equal conditions with men.

To supplement the information already provided in response to the comments made by the Committee when analysing our initial report, it is important to point out that the participation of women in the Mexican Foreign Service has been influenced over the years by various socio-cultural patterns which have defined the position of women in society and delineated their traditional areas of occupational activity.

In this order of ideas, one of the fundamental causes for the continuing inequality in the participation of women in the Foreign Service is the division of labour between the sexes.

Despite the fact that recent decades have seen a considerable increase in the number of women in the economically active population and involved in the area of international relations, their opportunities are still limited to specific areas and their presence is concentrated generally in occupations and posts that are considered to be of secondary importance or lie in the sectors of lower remuneration.

Entry into the Foreign Service has not been restricted to those who have specialized in the study of international relations, but has been and is open to other very varied disciplines, particularly with regard to social sciences, for which reason one would have expected a larger number of women entering the Service than a couple of decades ago.

In order to illustrate the participation of women in the Mexican Foreign Service and their gradual numerical increase, here are a few figures from the Public Entry Examinations in recent years:

(a) Between 1971 and 1975 there were six Public Entry Examinations, in which there were 566 candidates (384 men and 182 women), of whom only 21 women and 76 men passed;

(b) The progress achieved by women in the field of international relations can be observed from table 17, which gives the total figures for members of the Mexican Foreign Service in the two main overall categories, i.e. "officials" and "chancellors".

Table 17

Members of the Mexican Foreign Service

	Diplomatic Branch					Consular Branch			
		Men		Women		Men		Women	
Year	Total	Officials	Chancellors	Officials	Chancellors	Officials	Chancellors	Officials	Chancellors
1953	478	123	24	4	31	113	116	8	59
1975	844	120	118	37	140	233	53	54	89
Percentage change 1953-1975	76.57%	-2.44%	391.67%	825.00%	351.61%	106.19%	-54.31%	575.00%	50.85%

Between 1971 and 1975 an average of four women entered the Foreign Service each year.

In 1975 there were 320 women in the Mexican Foreign Service out of a total of 844 persons. There were 91 women in the various ranks of "officials", and 229 women out of a total of 400 chancellors.

These figures reflect the gradual incorporation of women in this career sector. Thus, in 1975 they accounted for 35 per cent of the Mexican Foreign Service. Nevertheless, it is evident that most women occupy operational support functions.

The corresponding figures for the Public Entry Examination held in February 1987 indicate greater interest on the part of women with a general or university background in entering the Foreign Service: 335 men and 207 women took part in the Examination. However, at the end of the first stage of the Examination, the 30 candidates who achieved the necessary qualifying level consisted of 24 men and only 6 women.

This shows that, even though women are increasingly interested in joining the Foreign Service, even accounting for virtually half of the candidates, their true level of participation is reduced after the Examinations and they constitute only a quarter of those who pass the first stage.

Current participation

In 1987 the Mexican Foreign Service was made up of 1,215 persons, including 503 women (41.40 per cent). Of these 503 women, 102 belonged to the Diplomatic (75) and Consular (27) Branches. In the Administrative Branch there were 21 Administrative Attachés and 380 Chancellors.

The distribution of members of the Foreign Service, broken down by grade and sex, in February 1987 is given in the following table.

It is worth stressing that, in 1987, the proportion of women increased considerably at the different levels, fluctuating between 6.9 per cent and 40 per cent in the Diplomatic Branch and between 16 per cent and 29 per cent in the Consular Branch, although the latter does not have any women in the two top grades (Consul-General and Consul-Counsellor). These figures highlight the greater participation of women in comparison with the situation which existed up to 1970, even though the percentage of women in the Foreign Service is still small, constituting a mere 17 per cent in the Diplomatic Branch and 18 per cent in the Consular Branch.

The available statistics indicate that, in the Administrative Branch, women occupy the majority of posts that can be classified as "support" posts. Women account for 61 per cent of the staff of the Administrative Branch, although in the Chancellor categories, which include occupations defined as "traditionally female", the percentage rises to 64 per cent.

Table 18

Comparative table of members of the Mexican Foreign Service in its three branches (1987)

Diplomatic branch

Ambassador		Minister		Counsellor		First Secretary		Second Secretary		Third Secretary		Diplomatic Attaché		Total	
Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
94	7	48	17	58	15	45	7	50	15	43	8	9	6	347	75

Consular branch

Consul-General		Consul-Counsellor		Consul, First grade		Consul, Second grade		Consul, Third grade		Consul, Fourth grade		Vice-Consul		Total	
Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
24	0	4	0	14	5	26	5	16	5	13	3	22	9	119	27

Administrative branch

Admin. Attaché, First grade		Admin. Attaché, Second grade		Admin. Attaché, Third grade		Chancellor, First grade		Chancellor, Second grade		Chancellor, Third grade		Total	
Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
8	6	15	7	15	8	80	155	61	132	67	93	246	401

Total men 712
Total women 503

Total percentage of men 58.6%
Total percentage of women 41.39%

Article 10

Education

Article 3 of the Constitution establishes, as a general principle, that the education imparted by the State shall be democratic and national and shall help to sustain the ideals of fraternity and equality of rights of all human beings, avoiding privileges of race, creed, group, sex or persons.

The school system in Mexico is made up of: the elementary level, for children aged between 4 and 14 years, comprising pre-school education and primary (basic) education; the middle level (secondary education), for young people aged between 13 and 19 years, the upper middle level or baccalaureate (bachillerato); teacher training; vocational technical education; and the higher or university level.

The education provided by the State is free of charge and primary education is compulsory.

There are also the following special programmes:

Programme of community courses, with the objective of imparting primary education to children in the rural (and indigenous) communities in the more remote areas of the country. This programme currently covers 15,000 localities.

Remote secondary teaching system (Telesecundaria), meeting the need for middle-level education in localities where there is no educational establishment.

The adult education programme offers basic education for this sector of the population under the aegis of a National Institute.

Table 19

Participation by women in the national educational system

Schooling	Period	Female enrolment	Percentage	Total enrolment
Pre-school education	1975-1976	270 693	50%	541 386
	1984-1985	1 095 000	51%	2 147 000
Primary education	1975-1976	5 535 863	48%	11 533 047
	1984-1985	7 305 000	48%	15 219 000
Secondary education	1975-1976	833 245	43%	1 937 779
	1984-1985	1 905 000	48%	3 968 000
Technical education	1975-1976	81 061	63%	50 953
	1984-1985	152 071	48%	316 616
Baccalaureate	1975-1976	179 384	29%	618 566
	1984-1985	722 000	38%	1 900 000
Basic teacher training	1976-1977	90 273	69%	130 981
	1984-1985	115 765	73%	159 140
Higher-level teacher training	1976-1977	20 793	49%	42 762
	1984-1985	71 395	51%	140 093
Higher education (licenciatura)	1975-1976	117 616	24%	490 067
	1984-1985	418 000	38%	1 100 000

The Government of Mexico, conscious of its responsibility fully to respect the right to education, gives a profound human and social content to its education policy and the resources used are intended to satisfy permanent social needs.

Table 20

Students enrolled for basic adult education by occupational group and sex, 1982

(In thousands)

Level and sex	Farm labourer	Domestic help	Salaried employee or worker	Self-employed	Unemployed, including housewives	Total	Percentage
Total	280	43	287	50	378	1 038	100.0
Men	251	7	207	32	32	523	50.3
Women	29	36	86	18	346	515	49.7
Primary	254	33	141	36	320	783	100.0
Men	230	5	103	23	23	383	48.8
Women	24	28	28	13	297	400	51.2
Secondary	26	10	146	13	59	254	100.0
Men	21	2	98	9	10	140	55.0
Women	5	8	48	4	49	114	45.0

In 1985, 48 per cent of the country's population was aged between four and 24 years and had access to education.

In the 10-year period between 1975 and 1985, participation by females in the educational system increased by 72.5 per cent - from 6.9 million female students in the academic year 1975/76 to 11.9 million in 1984/85.

It can thus be said that substantial progress has been made in eliminating the prejudices which gave preference in formal education to male children, but it must be acknowledged that the increased participation by women in the various levels of formal education still shows one weakness: the higher the level of education, the lower the proportion of women. This situation is also connected with socio-economic factors at family level.

The National Programme of Action for the Integration of Women in Development (annex I, pp. 36-41) envisages a number of measures which are being implemented by the Government:

- Promotion of the inclusion of women in programmes of formal education, primary and secondary as well as technical and vocational, to ensure that they are prepared under optimal conditions to enter the job market;

- Promotion, using formal and non-formal education systems, of information concerning sex education in order to ensure healthy, satisfactory and responsible sexuality;

- Revision and modification of the content of programmes and textbooks in order to reappraise the concept and social function of both women and men, on a basis of equality;

- Training of teaching personnel at the various levels of formal education so that they may be promoters par excellence of the model of equality between men and women;

- Development and application of teaching and apprenticeship methods which will promote the concept, function and egalitarian social participation of the sexes;

- Development of measures to enable women to enter, remain in and complete the different levels of formal education;

- Promotion of action, both inside and outside schools, to encourage women to select occupations and professions other than those traditionally considered to be a feminine preserve;

- Identification of the social and cultural obstacles which specifically hinder professional women in their careers in order to take steps to overcome them;

- Establishment by the relevant institutions of intensive adult education and literacy programmes, particularly aimed at rural and indigenous women, as well as those living in marginal urban zones;

- Promotion of vocational programmes that are realistic and flexible and achieve an adequate balance, both assisting the integration of women in development in the short term and satisfying the human resources needs arising from economic development, expanding training to include activities that have traditionally been regarded as non-female;

- Starting of training programmes for women connected with forms of social organization for work that will promote self-employment and the formation of co-operatives for trained women;

- Support, by means of non-formal education measures, for women's organizations in order to promote action to improve the standard of living of their communities;

- Promotion, in higher education institutions, of the conduct of research and the inclusion in the curriculum of seminars for the study of the situation of women; promotion of population education, aiming to analyse, and bring about knowledge of, the socio-economic and cultural causes of the situation of women, in order to provide them with the bases for re-evaluating themselves as human beings and pressing their claims in society;

- Development and dissemination of support material at the different levels of education to promote the integration of women in the economic, social, political and cultural development of the country.

Article 11

Employment

As an individual guarantee, article 5 of the Political Constitution of the Republic lays down that no one may be prevented from following the profession, occupation, trade or employment which he or she wishes, provided that it is lawful. Similarly, article 123 - concerning labour and social security - sets forth that every person has the right to dignified and socially useful work.

Article 3 of the Federal Labour Law lays down the general principles that work is a social right and duty, that it requires respect for the freedoms and dignity of the worker and that it must take place under conditions ensuring life, health and an appropriate economic level for the worker and his or her family. The same article provides that no distinction shall be made between workers on the basis of race, sex, age, religious beliefs, political beliefs or social status.

As part of the development process, the Government of Mexico has put into practice policies which have directly and indirectly contributed to significant growth in employment, transformed the structure of employment with reference to the activities in which the working classes are engaged, promoted the incorporation of women in the economically active population and substantially enhanced the educational and technical levels of workers.

In 1930, the economically active population amounted to 5,165,803 persons, of whom more than 3.5 million were involved in the farming and livestock sector. In 1950, the economically active population was 8,272,093 persons: 7,140,000 men and 1,130,000 women. In 1970, the economically active population was 12,955,057 persons: 10,480,000 men and 2,460,000 women. Of this population, 34.6 per cent was involved in the farming and livestock sector, 21.2 per cent in the industrial sector and 44.2 per cent in the service sector.

This means that, in 40 years (between 1930 and 1970), the economically active population increased significantly, and it is to be noted that, whereas in 1930 70 per cent were involved in farming and livestock activities, by 1970 this percentage had dropped to 34.6 per cent, with an increase in the population involved in industrial and service activities. Between 1950 and 1970, the proportion of women in the economically active population doubled.

The findings of the Tenth General Population Census in 1980 provide the following updated information on employment in Mexico:

Table 21

Economically active population, broken down by sex and area of activity, 1980

Branch of activity	Total	Men	Women
Agriculture, livestock, hunting, forestry and fishing	5 699 971	4 957 340	742 631
Mining and quarrying	447 017	322 464	154 553
Manufacturing	2 575 124	1 897 522	677 602
Electricity, gas and water	115 932	91 883	24 049
Construction	1 296 337	1 082 634	213 703
Trade, restaurants and hotels	1 729 296	1 137 568	591 728
Transport, storage and communication	672 111	594 910	77 201
Financing, insurance and real estate	405 754	308 998	96 756
Community, social and personal services	2 418 114	1 159 249	1 258 865
Inadequately defined	6 552 037	4 284 704	2 267 333
Unemployed who have not worked	124 391	87 534	36 857
Total	22 066 084	15 924 806	6 141 278

As can be seen, the trends described have continued, and in particular it may be noted that the proportion of women in the economically active population increased by 250 per cent between 1970 and 1980.

Nevertheless, in the past few years the employment situation in Mexico has been particularly difficult: diminished economic activity is coinciding with the massive incorporation of the generations born in the 1960s and increasing demand for participation by women, factors causing the labour force to swell by about 800,000 people each year.

In late 1982, the Mexican economy was in the middle of a crisis without precedent in the past 50 years. Price rises were running at nearly 100 per cent and the rate of open unemployment doubled during the year to 8 per cent.

The Immediate Economic Restructuring Programme, which the present administration implemented when it took up government, had three fundamental objectives: to fight inflation, to protect employment and to restore the capacity for economic growth.

The Government set out to avoid increases in unemployment by the direct creation of jobs in the zones and activities most affected by the crisis and by protecting existing production installations.

The Programme for the Protection of Production Plant and Employment, initiated in February 1983, set out to assist private, public and social industrial enterprises in solving three basic problems: reduced internal demand, problems of financing and liquidity, and scarcity of foreign exchange for the import of inputs, basic raw materials and the repayment of the external debt.

The 1983-1988 National Development Plan, presented by the Government of the Republic in May 1983, defined as a fundamental social policy proposal the increased generation of employment and the protection and gradual improvement of the purchasing power of wages. In this connection it established the following lines of policy:

(a) Use of public expenditure and fiscal, credit and foreign trade policies to restore the capacity for economic growth and to encourage production systems to switch to a supply of popular consumer goods in order to generate more jobs per production unit and a better distribution of income;

(b) Reorientation of public expenditure and tying of support and incentive policy to job creation as a priority objective;

(c) Strengthening of the capacity of small- and medium-scale units to generate more stable and better-paid jobs;

(d) Strengthening of the National Employment Service.

Towards the end of 1984 these policies had brought about a positive balance: inflation was cut to 60 per cent and there was more employment. Between June 1983 and June 1984, according to the National Urban Employment Survey carried out monthly by the National Institute for Statistics, Geography and Data Processing, the levels of open unemployment in the main towns had dropped during the period: from 7.2 to 6.3 per cent in Mexico City, from 7.0 to 5.5 per cent in Guadalajara, from 10.4 to 7.3 per cent in Monterrey, from 3.0 to 2.9 per cent in León, from 5.6 to 2.0 per cent in Puebla, from 5.4 to 4.7 per cent in San Luis Potosí and from 4.7 to 4.2 per cent in Veracruz. In Mérida the level had remained at 0.6 per cent and in Chihuahua, Tampico and Orizaba the level of unemployment had increased.

The levels of open unemployment continued to decline in 1985: down by 5.8 per cent in Mexico City, by 3 per cent in Guadalajara and by 5.3 per cent in Monterrey.

In 1984, within the framework of the Regional Employment Programmes, 380,000 jobs were created, preventing an increase in open unemployment.

Another aspect that has contributed to employment has been the continuity of the housing programmes, particularly those under the aegis of the Institute of the National Fund for Workers' Housing (INFONAVIT), the principal agency involved in executing the National Housing Development Programme and, from September 1985, the Emergency Housing Renovation Programme in the Federal District, implemented to deal with the disastrous consequences of the earthquakes which hit the capital of the Republic in that year.

During 1984 and 1985 the gross domestic product grew by 3.7 per cent and 3.9 per cent respectively in real terms. The number of permanent insurees of the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS) increased by 4.3 per cent in 1985, while the number of potential insurees increased by 26 per cent, figures which indicate growth in employment in that year in the structured sector of the economy.

On 15 October 1985, the President of the Republic set up the Employment Co-ordination Section of the National Commission for Reconstruction with the objective of restoring the jobs of those affected by the earthquakes. An estimated 10,000 jobs were directly lost as a result of the earthquakes in the Federal District, in both the formal and informal sectors of the economy. The indirect impact of the drop in demand, which affected about 10,000 more jobs, is being offset by the reconstruction work.

Against this background, it can be said that there has been increasing incorporation of women in economic activities. In 1975, the female economically active population (FEAP) was 22 per cent of the total economically active population, a proportion that had risen to 29 per cent by 1985. In absolute terms, in 1975 FEAP was 3.8 million women, rising to 7.9 million by 1985, indicating that, of every 100 women aged over 15 years, the number working or potentially working was 25 in 1975 and 37 in 1985.

The majority of women in paid employment are young (56 per cent), primarily in the 20-24 age group.

As regards the sectoral structure of FEAP, most women who work do so in the tertiary sector (services), a considerable percentage in the secondary sector (industry) and a smaller proportion in the primary sector (agriculture and livestock).

Nevertheless, one must not lose sight of the fact that, in the traditional peasant economy system, women contribute to the reproduction of the family labour force and agricultural production, since they not only look after the home, but also organize its economic productivity, taking responsibility for preparing food, taking it to the places of work (common land (ejidos) or smallholdings), and collaborating actively in the field alongside the family in preparing the soil, sowing, harvesting and marketing produce. The woman sometimes takes over the man's work when he has to migrate to seek other sources of income.

The concentration of women's work in the service branch covers widely differing situations: their work ranges from those activities which reproduce, outside the family circle, tasks considered traditionally as "woman's work" to highly specialized tasks requiring vocational preparation.

It can be stated that there is no discrimination against women in the sphere of employment, although it must be acknowledged that participation by women in the economically active population and their incorporation in all labour activities are still far from what the country requires, in terms of using all its potential.

Increasing numbers of women are taking on jobs to supplement the family income and there have been tangible changes in the attitude of society to women's work.

There can be no doubt that the forms and conditions under which women participate in the labour market vary, depending not only on the levels of development of the country and the activity concerned, but also on their own socio-cultural characteristics and their membership of different social groups.

The more complex urban and industrialized economies have required greater participation by women in the formal employment markets. Consequently, there is a significant proportion of women workers in paid activities.

Alongside this, there is also increased access by women to technical and vocational education. There is also a downward trend in fertility and, therefore, in family responsibilities, increasing women's chances of finding or remaining in employment.

Finally, the Government of Mexico wishes to remind the Committee that the Federal Labour Law lays down that labour conditions may in no case be worse than those fixed in the said Law, that they must be equal for equal work, and that there must be no distinction based on race, nationality, sex, age or religious or political beliefs.

Article 12

Health care and social security

Article 123 of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States establishes the bases for the social security system in Mexico. Section XXIX of this article states that the Social Security Law is of public interest and shall cover insurance for disability, old age, life, involuntary cessation of work, sickness and accidents, the provision of nursery services and any other benefits directed towards the protection and well-being of workers, rural people, those with no paid employment and members of other social sectors and their families.

The social security system, which is entirely focused on the well-being of working people and their families, covers attention to the needs of health, culture and recreation, credit support and protection of the purchasing power of wages. It also guarantees protection for the worker and the worker's family in the event of accident, retirement, cessation of employment or death.

To protect the right to social security, a Social Security Law was promulgated in 1942 which was superseded by the new Social Security Law of 1973. This Law, which applies throughout the Republic, lays down that the purpose of social security is to guarantee the human right to health, medical assistance, protection of the means of subsistence and the social services necessary for individual and collective welfare. The entire population may avail itself of the benefits granted by the Law since it is a national public service.

A new Law on the Institute for Social Security and Services for State Employees (ISSSTE) was approved on 27 December 1983 to replace the law which had been in force for 24 years.

The new ISSSTE Law embodies important advances in social security by updating the rights of public employees. This Law: gives priority to preventive medicine; increases medical care services in their various aspects; gives special importance to rehabilitation; expands coverage for beneficiaries by establishing that care shall be provided for the children of participants up to 25 years of age when they are bona fide students and have no paid employment, as well as single mothers aged under 18 years, children aged over 18 years suffering from physical or mental disabilities who are not able to work, and children of the spouse even when they are not children of the participant if they depend economically on the participant; gives greater protection to the health of retired persons and their beneficiaries under similar conditions to active public employees; and also envisages the granting of short- and medium-term credits depending on length of service and basic salary.

Table 22

Persons entitled to the benefits of various social security institutions, 1984

Institution	Persons entitled to benefits
Mexican Social Security Institute (manual and non-manual workers and their families)	27,645,985
Institute for Social Security and Services for State Employees	5,467,876
Petróleos Mexicanos	784,083
Secretariat of National Defence	340,234
Secretariat for the Navy	162,400

In its initial report the Government of Mexico drew the attention of the Committee in a detailed manner to the provisions in force to guarantee the rights covered by articles 11 and 12 of the Convention.

With reference to the entitlement to social security and health protection, we give information below on changes in legislation and progress achieved in current programmes.

(a) Legislation

Article 4 of the Constitution, which states that "men and women are equal before the law", now contains the following paragraph in accordance with the decree published in the Official Gazette of the Federation on 18 March 1980:

"It is the parents' duty to protect the right of minors to the satisfaction of their needs and to physical and mental health. The Law shall determine the forms of support for the protection of minors by public institutions."

This is fully concordant with the provisions of article 11.2(c) of the Convention.

A further addition has been made to this article of the Constitution by a decree published in the Official Gazette of the Federation on 3 February 1983:

"All persons are entitled to health protection. The Law shall define the bases and conditions of access to health services and shall establish the contribution of the Federation and federal agencies with regard to general health."

This article also recognizes that "every person has the right to decide in a free, responsible and informed manner on the number and spacing of children."

Clearly, the right to health as established in the Political Constitution of the Republic coincides with the principle set out in article 12.1 of the Convention.

In December 1983, the Congress of the Union approved the General Law on Health, which came into force six months later. This Law defines the bases and conditions of access to health services by the population.

Various articles of the Law refer to measures relating to women, particularly mother and child care and family planning.

(b) Progress in health and social security programmes

The Government of Mexico has made a sustained effort to make the right of the population to health a reality.

Alongside the Secretariat for Health, which co-ordinates the sector, there are institutions which have helped to expand social assistance and security: the Mexican Social Security Institute, established in 1943; the Institute for Social Security and Services for State Employees, created in 1959; the National Institute for the Protection of Infants, formed in 1958, which became the Mexican Institute for Assistance to Children in 1970 with increased resources; the National System for the Overall Development of the Family, established in 1979.

In this way health coverage, including private medicine for approximately 7 million people, is provided for nearly 60 million inhabitants.

The indicators of the health of the people in Mexico show a radical improvement. In 1930 the life expectancy of the average Mexican was 37 years, whereas it is currently 66 years. Between 1930 and 1986, the annual mortality rate dropped from 25.6 to 5.9 deaths per 1,000 inhabitants. In particular, there has been a substantial decrease in infant mortality. In the last 50 years Mexico has eradicated diseases such as yellow fever, smallpox and typhoid, and other diseases, such as malaria, tuberculosis, hooping cough and measles, are under control.

The 1983-1988 National Development Plan draws attention to the need to focus efforts on enhancing and modernizing the administration of services, encouraging decentralization and strengthening planning, information and control systems.

Along these lines, despite the country's current economic situation, programmes have been designed and developed to ensure the effective and equitable provision of services and to achieve better utilization of installed capacity.

The total population insured by the Mexican Social Security Institute is now 7,332,000 and the number of Mexicans entitled to receive benefits is 28,229,000. On top of this, the Institute has various programmes which cover other important population groups, essentially in the countryside, under the "social solidarity" scheme.

The health sector strategy consists in the integration of care in an effort to achieve adequate institutional co-ordination, locally and regionally, by means of agreements between the health and social security institutions, in order to avoid duplication of functions and to achieve better utilization of resources. In this way, steps are gradually being taken towards the integration of the sector, with the establishment in January 1983 of the Health Office of the Federal Executive.

The health sector policy has been focused on obtaining broader coverage by an expansion of services, stressing preventive activities. The provision of minimum health services is considered to be a priority for the population in rural and urban marginal areas, particularly for the mother and child.

With regard to social security, steps are being taken to guarantee for those entitled to benefits overall protection against risks at work, health care, and the promotion of economic and social benefits and various social welfare activities.

Programmes are being implemented to cover the entire population, as follows: full-scale vaccination campaigns for the population aged under five years; disease detection services; advice to mothers on care during pregnancy; enhanced nutrition for mothers during pregnancy and lactation and direct or indirect care at and after childbirth; extension of family planning services to make them available to all; provision of renabilitation services; extension of essential basic services in marginal zones; increase in school meals for children in basic education and expansion of the population provided with drinking water and sewage disposal services.

The National System for the Overall Development of the Family has focused its efforts on improving nutrition for the mother and child by means of the National Family Feeding Programme, started in 1977, and the Programme of Preventive Medicine and Nutrition.

The Mexican Social Security Institute, the Institute for Social Security and Services for State Employees and the Secretariat of Health, through its Directorate-General for Co-ordinated Public Health Services in the States, are taking a variety of measures to promote nutrition and medical control of malnutrition. The Rural Supplementary Nutrition Programme, applied to pregnant and pre-school women in rural areas, and the Programme of Supplementary Nourishment in Hospitals, designed for needy patients in hospital, are of particular importance.

A step forward in preventive medicine was the establishment in 1979 of the National Vaccination Card System, used to keep a record of the administration of vaccines to control poliomyelitis, measles, diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus.

In order to satisfy the needs of people who are not fully integrated in the health services, the Social Solidarity Programme was initiated with IMSS-COPLAMAR community participation with a view to improving the standard of living of the most vulnerable groups by means of rural medical care units, semi-urban clinics and modules administered by auxiliary staff supervised by medical personnel. The IMSS-COPLAMAR clinics currently deal with 13 million people.

The Programmes for Expansion of the Drinking Water Supply and Sewage Disposal System are of particular importance because of their direct impact on hygiene and health conditions among the population.

The National Programme of Action for the Integration of Women in Development proposes the following lines of action with regard to health and social security (annex I, pages 42-45):

- Promotion of the evaluation of existing health programmes in relation to medical care for women;

- Implementation of programmes designed to improve the dietary habits of people of all ages;

- Dissemination of campaigns and sundry material designed to prevent cervical, uterine and breast cancer and to increase and ennance preventive services dealing with these types of cancer, as well as oncological rehabilitation services;

- Intensification, through the social communication media, of awareness of tne importance of breast feeding, rather than the use of substitutes for mother's milk;

- Strengthening of the National Health System through the provision of appropriate facilities for preventive medicine, hospital care and specialization, with special emphasis on preventive medicine, wherever the greatest morbidity and mortality are to be found;

- Efforts to ensure that the health sector institutions increase special programmes to prevent perinatal morbidity and mortality;

- Guarantee of appropriate care for women during pregnancy, birth and the period immediately following the birth;

- Implementation of programmes specifically designed for the rural population and the marginal population of the main urban areas, offering the services needed by the women in those population groups;

- Provision of health services to all working women, regardless of their contractual status.

The earthquakes in September 1985 caused considerabe damage to the hospital infrastructure providing second-level and third-level medical care in the capital of tne Republic. To deal with this, the Secretariat of Health formulated a Programme for Health Services Reconstruction and Reorganization, which has made considerable progress to date. As first steps, the damage suffered was appraised, damaged buildings were demolished, services affected were rehabilitated and the operations of severely damaged hospitals were resumed in other clinical units. Efforts are currently being focused on the consolidation of the National Health System.

For a number of years the proportion of federal expenditure devoted to health has fluctuated around 7 per cent, rising in 1985 to 8.2 per cent and in 1986 to 8.6 per cent.

With reference to the specific provisions of article 12.2, it must be said that there are information campaigns and educational programmes for pregnant women to promote awareness of the importance of natural lactation on the health of the mother and child, discouraging the consumption of products to replace mother's milk.

The Secretariat of Health has co-ordinated all the measures promoted by the National Programme for the Integration of Women in Development in relation to health through an internal sectoral commission established for the purpose in 1983 and integrated into the National Commission for Women.

The Commission for Women of the Secretariat of Health is taking steps which reflect the importance of women in the area of health: in the first place, through the specialized health care required by women; in the second place, through their role as the provider of such services in a domestic, community and institutional context. The Commission thus has various functions.

These functions include the following:

I. To promote a quantitative and qualitative improvement in measures designed to enhance the specific health conditions of women, primarily those in the most disadvantaged circumstances;

II. To raise the awareness of women regarding the value of their own health and that of their families;

III. To provide women with information and training to enable them to play a more effective role as educator and auxiliary in health matters;

IV. To promote organized participation by women in community programmes;

V. To encourage the advancement of female personnel and their access to decision-making posts in health institutions;

VI. To draw up the programme of work, define priorities and decide on measures, targets, strategies and the system for evaluation.

The activities carried out by this Commission are based on the priority lines of action established by the National Commission for Women. Since one of the main orientations of the institutional programmes of the national health system is the improvement of the health of women in Mexico, the Commission has directed its efforts to specific areas which require special encouragement because of their particular importance.

Against this background, the Commission has set out to promote the following:

(a) Activities directed towards studying and making known the rates of morbidity and mortality among Mexican women;

(b) Activities designed to prevent cervical, uterine and breast cancer;

(c) Activities designed to enhance care provided during pregnancy, at birth and during the period immediately following birth;

(d) Activities designed to promote and train female personnel working in the Secretariat of Health;

(e) Activities designed to inform and motivate the female population in general and groups of women on the importance of care for their own health, the health of their families and their community, principally with regard to the prevention of cervical, uterine and breast cancer, care during pregnancy, at birth and in the period immediately after birth, and the practice of family planning.

The substantive measures implemented under the auspices of the Commission make a positive contribution to the efforts being made by the Government of Mexico to provide the health services required by the population.

With reference to the statistics regarding the health conditions of women in Mexico, it must be understood that the systematized data available do not provide specific information on certain categories.

Naturally, the primary data gathered on the morbidity and mortality of the population indicate sex and age. However, these aspects get lost during the stages of collection, processing, analysis and dissemination, with the result that, at the end of the process, the output has become generalized and its capacity to express the heterogeneous reality of the different social groups in the country is reduced.

This is why the Directorates-General for Epidemiology and for Information and Statistics of the Secretariat of Health have been focusing efforts on this area in the last three years. This has made it possible to include the sex variable in the system of processing and analysing national health surveys, and there are plans for disseminating the information on care during pregnancy and at birth, with a sex breakdown of the medical consultations conducted in the first-level and second-level units of the Secretariat of Health and elaborating (from July 1987) the routine information on the programmes for the prevention and control of cervical, uterine and breast cancer.

One area of special interest to the internal Commission for Women and Health is the number of deaths among mothers, many of which are thought to be avoidable. There are large gaps in the information on this and work is now being carried out to fill these gaps by a review of death certificates and an examination of classification indicators regarding deaths among mothers, the question of prevalence and efforts aimed at prevention, considering quantitative and qualitative features which affect the coverage provided by services and the demand therefor, including in the latter the impact of the socio-cultural variables prevailing in our society. Other research projects are already in progress and yet more are still on the drawing board, with technical advice and, in part, funding from the Pan American Health Organization.

The lines of action designed to prevent cervical, uterine and breast cancer and improve care during pregnancy, at birth and in the period immediately following birth have been developed mainly by the Directorate-General for Preventive Medicine and the Directorate-General for the Regulation of Health Services, responsible for issuing standards.

It is relevant to mention the valuable and ongoing participation of the Directorate-General for Preventive Medicine in the Commission. Its collaboration in the measures designed to encourage and train the female population of the Secretariat of Health and other groups of women has been substantial, as has the collaboration of the Directorate-General for Health Services in the Federal District, the Directorate-General for Health and Education and the Directorate-General for Family Planning.

The dissemination of information and the promotion of awareness among the female population concerning the importance of valuing and protecting their own health and that of their families and of their community take place in three directions: one aimed at the female public in general, through the mass media, i.e. television, radio and the press; another through events bringing together numerous groups of women; and the third aimed at the women working in the general services of the Secretariat of Health.

The mass media campaigns have included the production of television programmes on the prevention of cervical, uterine and breast cancer, care during pregnancy, at birth and in the period immediately after birth and family planning. There has also been an average of one radio broadcast a week on the various aspects of women's health, such as care during pregnancy, at birth and in the period immediately following birth, cervical, uterine and breast cancer, addictions, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome and sexual violence.

With this in mind, in co-ordination with the National Council for the Integration of Women of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, there are permanent Health Guidance Workshops on the prevention of cervical, uterine and breast cancer, family planning, sexuality and care during pregnancy, at birth and in the period immediately following birth. To date these workshops have been established in 11 health areas of the Federal District and in eight States in Mexico, with the

very useful participation of the Directorate-General for Health Services in the Federal District and the corresponding agencies in the states of the Republic. It is estimated that approximately 3 million women have attended these workshops so far.

Lastly, it is worth mentioning that an investigation was carried out in 1986 into women's organizations in Mexico and their possible involvement in health activities. This investigation formed part of a broader investigation promoted by the World Health Organization in five countries.

Article 14

Status of women in rural areas

In 1975, in connection with the International Women's Year, women were given access to credit through Women's Agricultural-Industrial Units. The necessary requirements for the organization and operation of these Agricultural-Industrial Units were also issued.

The National Programme of Action for the Integration of Women in Development has led to the establishment, and incorporation within it, of an Integrated Programme for the Participation of Rural Women in the Achievement of Rural Development.

In order to fulfil the commitments set out in the Integrated Programme, steps were taken for federal and state monitoring, through the farming offices of the Joint Agrarian Commissions, the follow-up of the measures and their progress and evaluation - i.e. effectiveness of rights, guarantees, preferences and exceptions provided for in the Federal Agrarian Reform Law for women in the rural sector, individually and collectively.

In this process, the Under-Secretariat for Agrarian Organization and Development of the Secretariat for Agrarian Reform has developed specific forms of agrarian organization for the benefit of women, such as the agreement with the National System for the Overall Development of the Family on the joint establishment of offices for legal guidance and advice to women, and the programme to generate jobs for rural women.

The Secretariat for Agrarian Reform's proposals for inter-institutional co-ordination were submitted to the National Commission for Women in February 1986, indicating full implementation of the activities and measures proposed.

The objectives of the Integrated Programme are: to promote the integration of women in Mexico in the towns and in the countryside in economic, political and social activities, and to improve standards of living and social welfare, generating jobs in rural localities with proper remuneration, thus preventing the population drift away from the land.

The first State Inter-institutional Co-ordination Meeting for the Participation of Rural Women in Rural Development took place on 4 August 1987 in co-ordination with the National Council for the Integration of Women in Development of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, the National Peasants' Confederation, the Independent Peasants' Union (Central Campesina Independiente) and other organizations of rural people.

It emerged from this Meeting that the current situation of women in the countryside still requires priority attention in order to achieve realistic and

balanced development. The Meeting also reiterated the undeniable fact that the woman is the focus of the family and that she represents potential productivity, both in the countryside and in the town.

With this in view, the Programme of Action for the Incorporation of Rural Women in the Balanced Development of the Country in Economic, Political and Social Activities has established the following strategy:

- To organize rural women so that they can obtain greater benefit from the efforts, services, support and inputs offered by governmental, social and private institutions;

- To provide the tools required for the constitution and consolidation of women's organizations in the countryside;

- To encourage rural women with organizational experience to spread and promote the formation of women's groups.

Priority has been given to the training of rural women, essentially in order to eradicate illiteracy and also to provide rural women with basic knowledge about the fundamentals of organization, marketing, production, basic accounting, etc. The intention is also to teach subjects that will help bring about improvements in the home in the areas of health, hygiene, nutrition and cultural matters.

The lines of action laid down by the Secretariat for Agrarian Reform are:

- To train rural women;

- To promote economic, social and political development in rural localities in order to create sources of employment;

- To support the family economy;

- To strengthen and popularize the services offered through inter-institutional co-ordination in the agrarian sector for the benefit of rural women.

In 1986, 78 Women's Agricultural-Industrial Units were established, 148 Units were regularized and 63 were consolidated.

The 78 units established were set up in 20 states of the Republic, in the following branches of activity: pigs, poultry, crafts, needlework, weaving, crops, services, market gardening, production of tortillas (maize cakes), fruit, flour-milling and meat.

A Catalogue of Active Units is currently almost complete. To date there are 1,270 units engaged in the following activities: growing of crops (472); poultry (219); production of tortillas and/or milling of flour for tortillas (nixtamal) (173); cattle and livestock (88); clothing industries (61); bee-keeping (44). As a result of this, jobs and income were generated in 1986 for the benefit of approximately 1,850 families.

The Units have been offered legal advice and guidance, specifically with reference to the exercise of their rights through guidance on agricultural procurement and in connection with legal contracts for the marketing and exploitation of resources.

The Agrarian Training Institute has given 94 courses for the Units, assisting 3,883 members, the teaching materials include a special section for rural women.

In order to support the family economies of rural women there has been an attempt to promote activities concerned with the breeding and exploitation of small animals, market gardening, vegetables, domestic workshops, nixtamal milling, tortillas, bakeries and crafts. Guidance has also been provided on supporting the diet through the home consumption of regional products.

Among the examples of inter-institutional co-ordination it is worth mentioning that 80 agreements were reached to assist the Women's Agricultural-Industrial Units in obtaining credit with BANRURAL, and advice has been given to more than 150 units on project viability and product marketing.

List of annexes

I. National Programme of Action for the Integration of Women in Development*

II. Operational Programme of the National Commission for Women for the three-year period 1986-1988*

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* The documents referred to were provided in Spanish by the Government of Mexico to the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna and can be consulted in the offices of the Advancement of Women Branch.